Nine Rules of Empirical Paper Writing

1. All good estimates deserve a standard error.

2. The reader’s first question is always: Why should I care?

3. The reader’s second question is always: Hasn’t this already been done?

4. Omitted references are always written by your future referees.

5. Consistency is always relative to the currently specified model.

6. Efficiency is usually a figment of the overly optimistic imagination.

7. Every good test statistics deserve a critical value.

8. Figures are usually more informative than tables.

9. A figure is only worth a 1000 words if you explain it clearly.