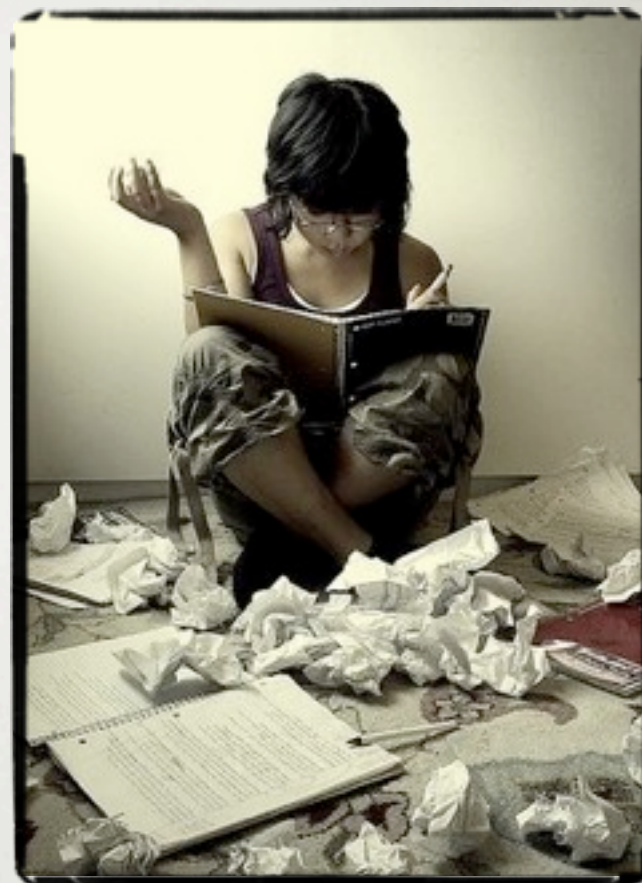




Kamila Rosolová, Ph.D.
Eleanor Lurring, M.A.

The biggest problem of my PhD study was I was thinking I have to be an excellent chemist. The reality is everybody wants me to be a writer. Everybody asks for writing skills. Unfortunately there is no option to avoid writing, which to me is like a removal of a bad tooth - you have to undergo suffering to save the mouth.

(junior researcher in chemistry)







Publish and Flourish

Overview

1) Writing norms and guidelines (abstract as an example)

2) Overall article structure (IMRAD)

3) The Writing Process



Writing goes beyond
language: norms and
guidelines

Cultures have their own intellectual writing styles



- Saxonie
(Anglo-American)
- Teutonic
(Continental)
- Gallic
- Nipponic

Anglo-
American
writing
culture
dominates
the discourse



	Continental European culture	Anglo-american culture
Relationship Writer -- Reader	Reader responsibility	Writer responsibility
Overall coherence	Implicit	Explicit
Text/paragraph structure	No unified model Bottom-up Spiral like	Predictable patterns (rhetorical moves) Topic sentences Top-down Linear
Authorial self-reference	Fewer personal statements; more impersonal constructions	More personal statements (I/we)

The culture of writing research articles

Title

Abstract



Abstracts

- stand-alone mini-texts
- screening devices
- previews for readers





Activity 1

Assessing the quality of an abstract



Activity 2

-
- What is the study about?
 - What problem does it intend to solve?
 - Who will benefit from the project?

Problem statement

Although this examination includes energy parameters such as glucose and lactate concentrations, it does not commonly use Coefficient of Energy Balance (CEB).

A large, hand-painted red heart is centered on a white background. The heart is filled with a vibrant red color and has a textured, brush-stroke appearance. The text "Problem Question / Purpose" is written in a bold, black, serif font across the center of the heart.

**Problem
Question / Purpose**

Look for...

- tensions
- contradictions
- gaps
- unexplained issues
- puzzles





**Question/
Purpose**





Activity 3: Rhetorical Moves

Abstract

1. Background/ Problem
2. Present research/ Purpose (answer to the problem)
3. Methods/ Subjects
4. Results/ Findings
5. Discussion/ Conclusion/ Implications



Activity 4: Rhetorical Moves



Activity 5: Titles

Examining the title

Biochemical Parameters of Energy
Metabolism in Cerebrospinal Fluid at
Defined Cytological Syndromes

vs.

Coefficient of Energy Balance: Effective
Tool for Early Differential Diagnosis of
CNS Diseases

Use titles to attract readers



A strong title is:

- Clear
- Complete
- Compact

Clear Titles

Tradition and Spread of AIDS in Malawi

Risky Traditional Practices Associated with
the Spread of HIV/AIDS in Malawi: Pregnant
Women in the Blantyre and Lilongwe Districts

Clear titles

Involvement of amygdala in the
oxotremorine memory enhancing effect

Involvement of amygdala in memory
enhancement by oxotremorine

Clear and catchy titles

Methodological and Practical
Considerations in the Conduct of a
Confidential National Enquiry on Child
Mortality: A Feasibility Study

vs.

Why Children Die: A Pilot Study

Complete titles

Improved survival in homozygous
sickle cell disease: lessons from a cohort
study

Compact titles

A Study into the Relationship between
the Number of Times a Queen Bee Mates
and Disease within Honeybee Colony

Multiple Mating by Queen Bee Lowers
Disease within Honeybee Colony

Compact can also be catchy

Multiple Mating by Queen Bee Lowers
Disease within Honeybee Colony

Queen Promiscuity Lowers Disease
within Honeybee Colonies

Titles: Language Tips

- Do not be afraid to use verbs
- Do not stack nouns
- Delete trivial phrases such as “Notes on” or “A study of”
- Look at inspiring titles in the journal where you want to publish

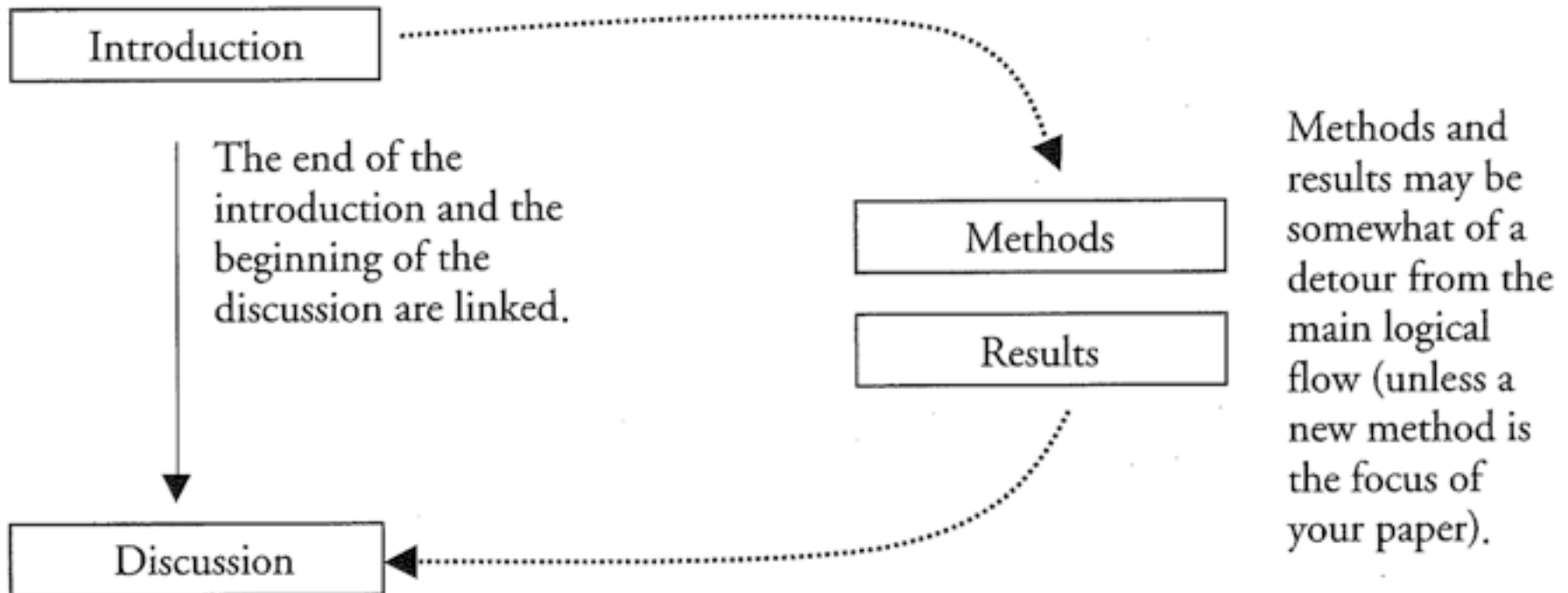


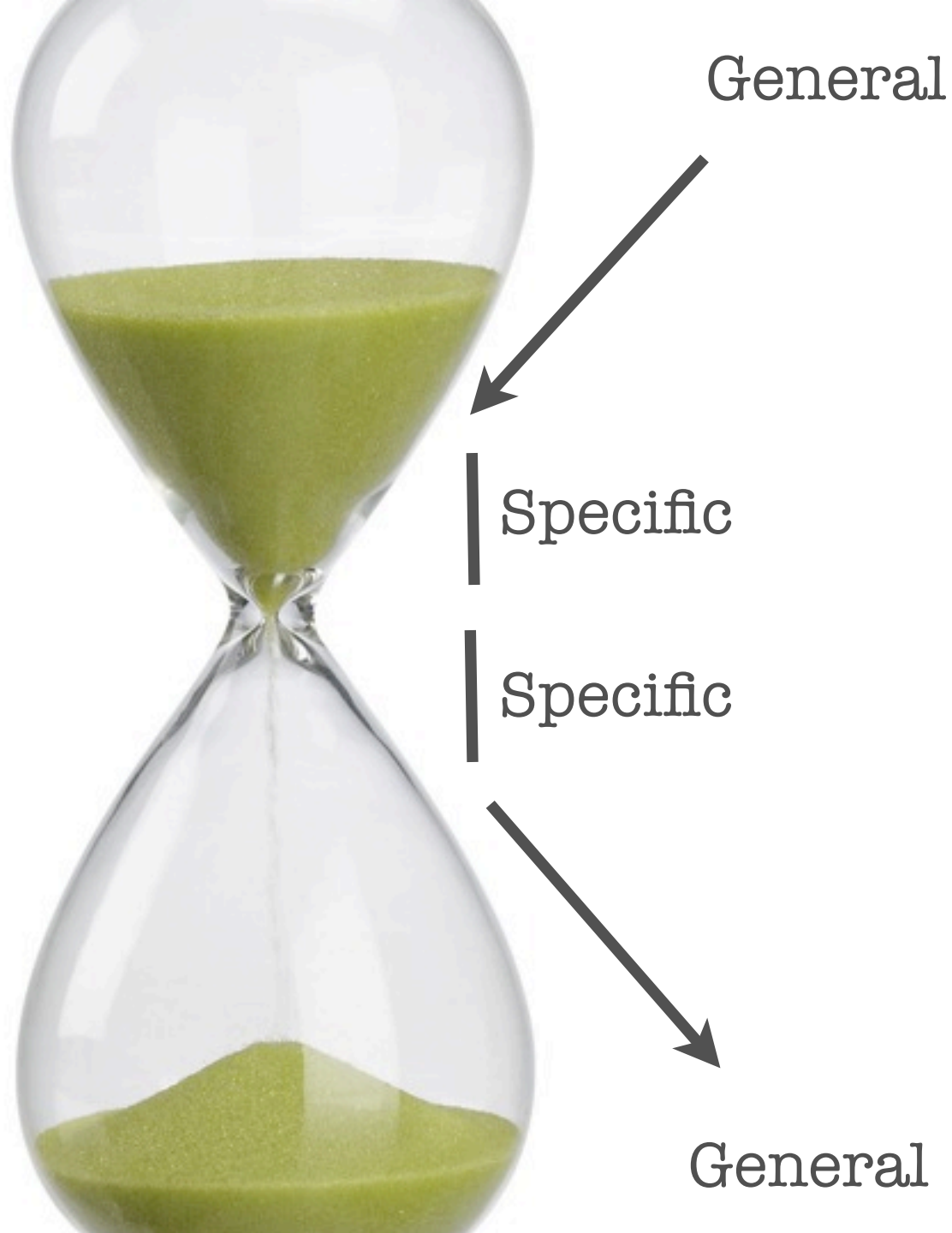
What matters in a research article

The primary objective of a research article is to communicate new information quickly. Therefore, its two essential qualities are **novelty** and **the ability to communicate results**. Although this definition may seem obvious, in the course of my work as an editor, I have observed that not only do more than half the articles I see fail to communicate their results, almost none of them clearly explain their novelty!

Eric Leichtfouse (2013) Scientific Writing for Impact Factor Journals, p. 13

How people read research articles





Introduction

Methods

Results

Discussion

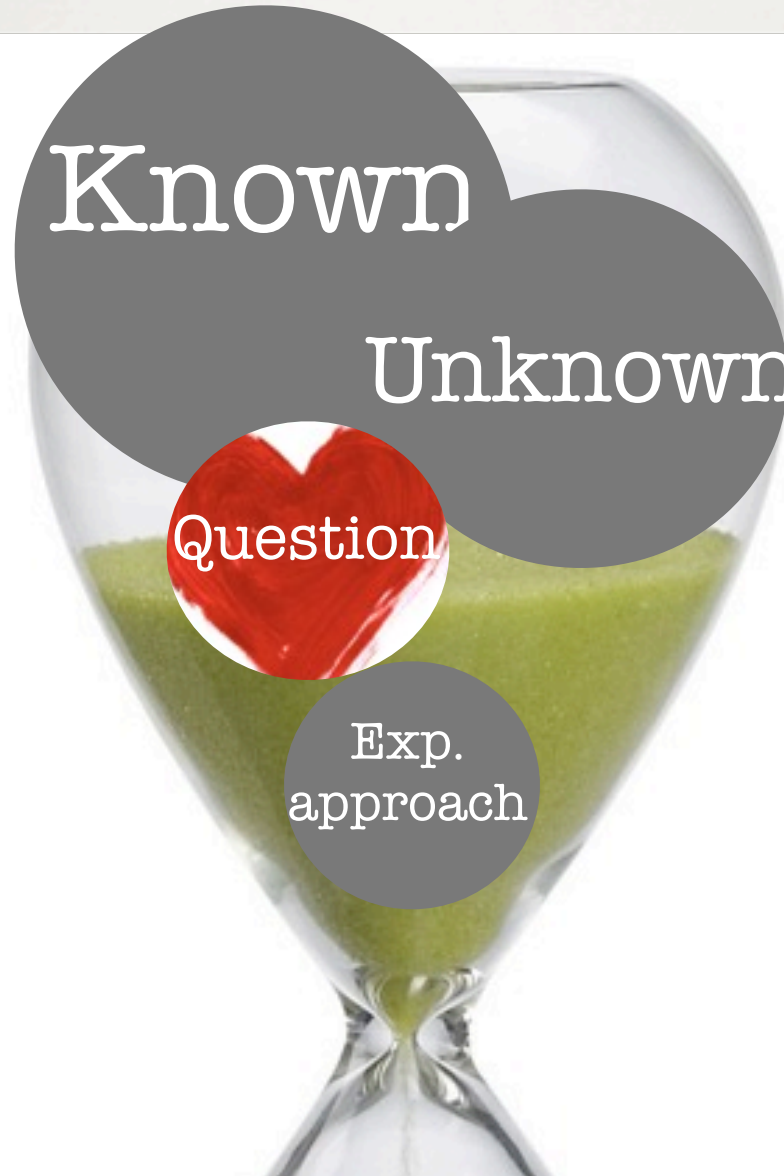
Introductions



What should introductions do?

- awaken interest of the audience to read the paper
- persuade the reader that you have something important/interesting to say
- provide sufficient background information so that readers understand the study

How? Through funneling...



Examples of stating the question:

- **To examine** the cold and heat tolerance of hibernating chipmunks, we...
- **Here we asked** how rheumatic fever influences heart rate.
- **To determine** if the triggered cellular processes affect the rRNA structure and folding dynamic in vivo, we...
- In this study, **we asked whether...**
- We **hypothesized** that...



Activity 6

Common mistakes

- Missing or obscured elements
- Excessive length
- Context-background is too narrow



Activity 7



Activity 8

An hourglass with green sand is centered on a white background. The word "Discussion" is written in a bold, black, serif font across the middle of the hourglass. The sand is a vibrant green color and is piled up in the bottom bulb, with a small stream of sand falling from the top bulb. The hourglass is made of clear glass and has a narrow neck.

Discussion



**Answer
RQ**

**Explain
and
interpret**

**Summarize
and
generalize**

Common mistakes

- Too many results
- Lack of structure, no unifying theme
- Novelty unclear
- Implications not explained



Activity 9: Compare paragraphs



The Writing Process

Start early and write to think

~~idea ---> do research ---> write~~

idea ---> write ---> do research

One Art
by Elizabeth Bishop

*The art of losing isn't hard to master
so many things seem filled with the desire
to be lost that their loss is no disaster.*

*Lose something every day. Accept it
of lost door keys, the hour badly spent.
The art of losing isn't hard to master.*

*Then practice losing farther, losing faster:
places, and names, and where it was you meant
to travel. None of these will bring disaster.*



**Elizabeth Bishop
(1911-1979)**

Writing through revising





Procrastination

PRODUCTIVE PROCRASTINATION

BY LAUREN PURJE.

COFFEE



ART



ONE MORE CUP...



MUST MAINTAIN
CAT HAIR...



I NEED A BAGEL ...



OOPS, TAXES ARE DUE



I HAVE NO CLEAN SOCKS!



SO MANY DIRTY DISHES..



SHOULD CALL MOM...



ART?



IT'S SO NICE OUTSIDE!



I'LL FINISH THAT BOOK



OOH! A MESSAGE!



OH... IMPORTANT
MESSAGE...



LIVESTREAM CONCERT
OOOOOH



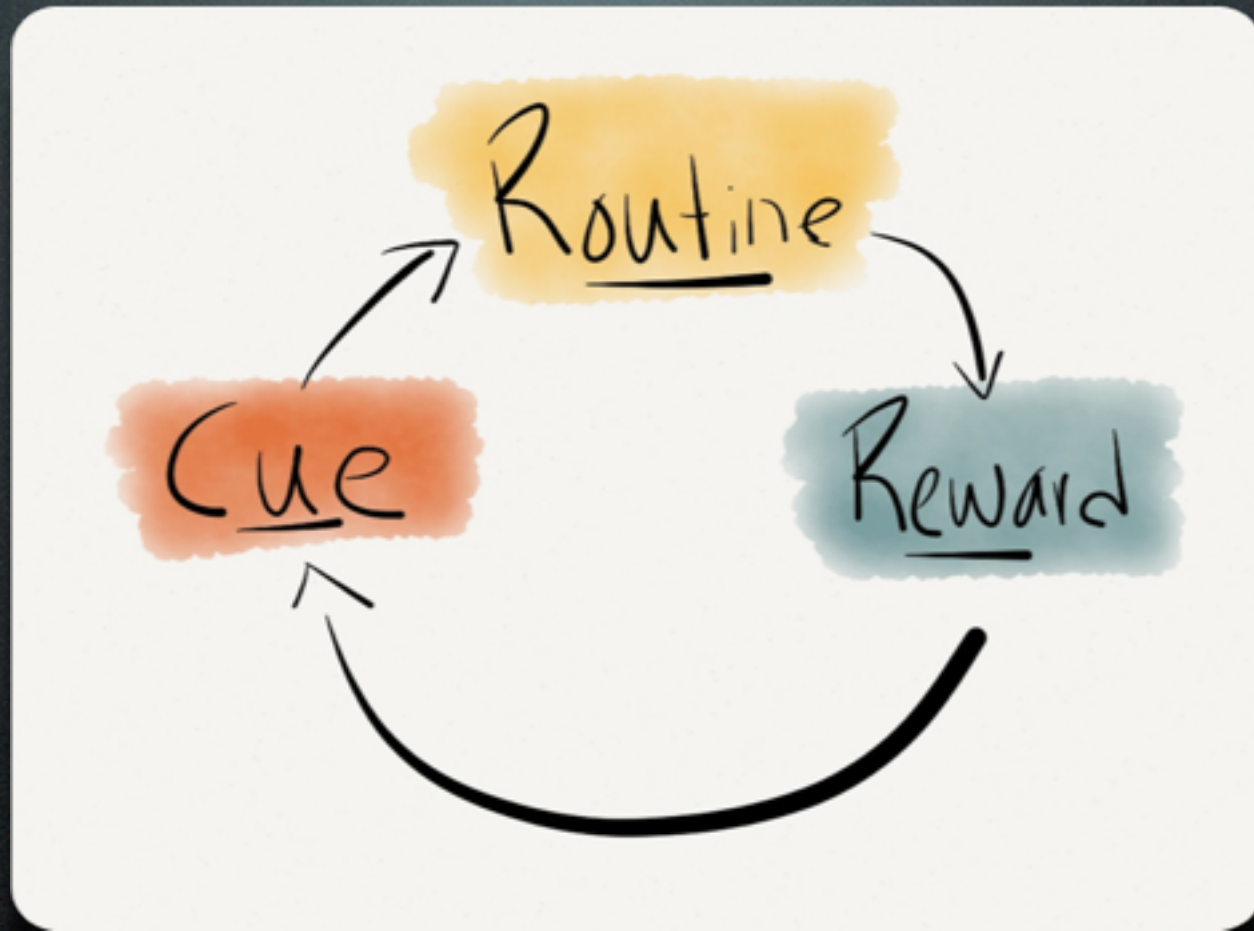
SHOULD WE TRY THIS
AGAIN TOMORROW?







Get a Glue...



Create a Writing Habit



Deal with the Writer's Block

Free Writing



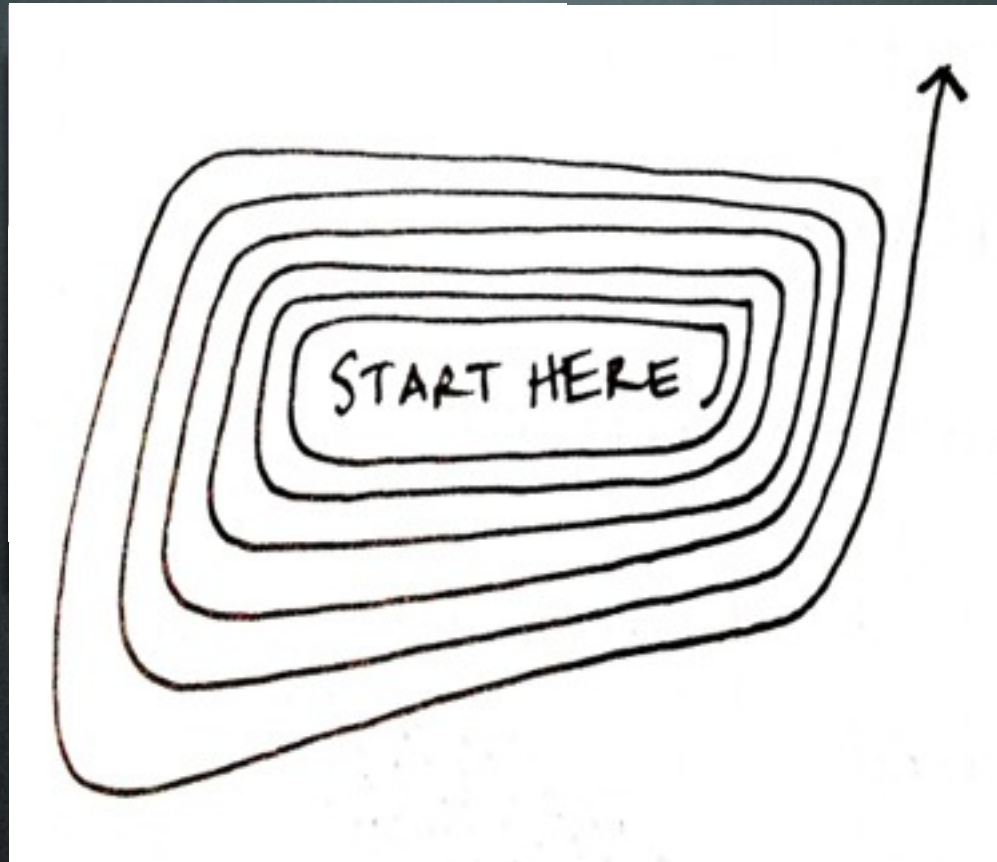
Writing Strategies



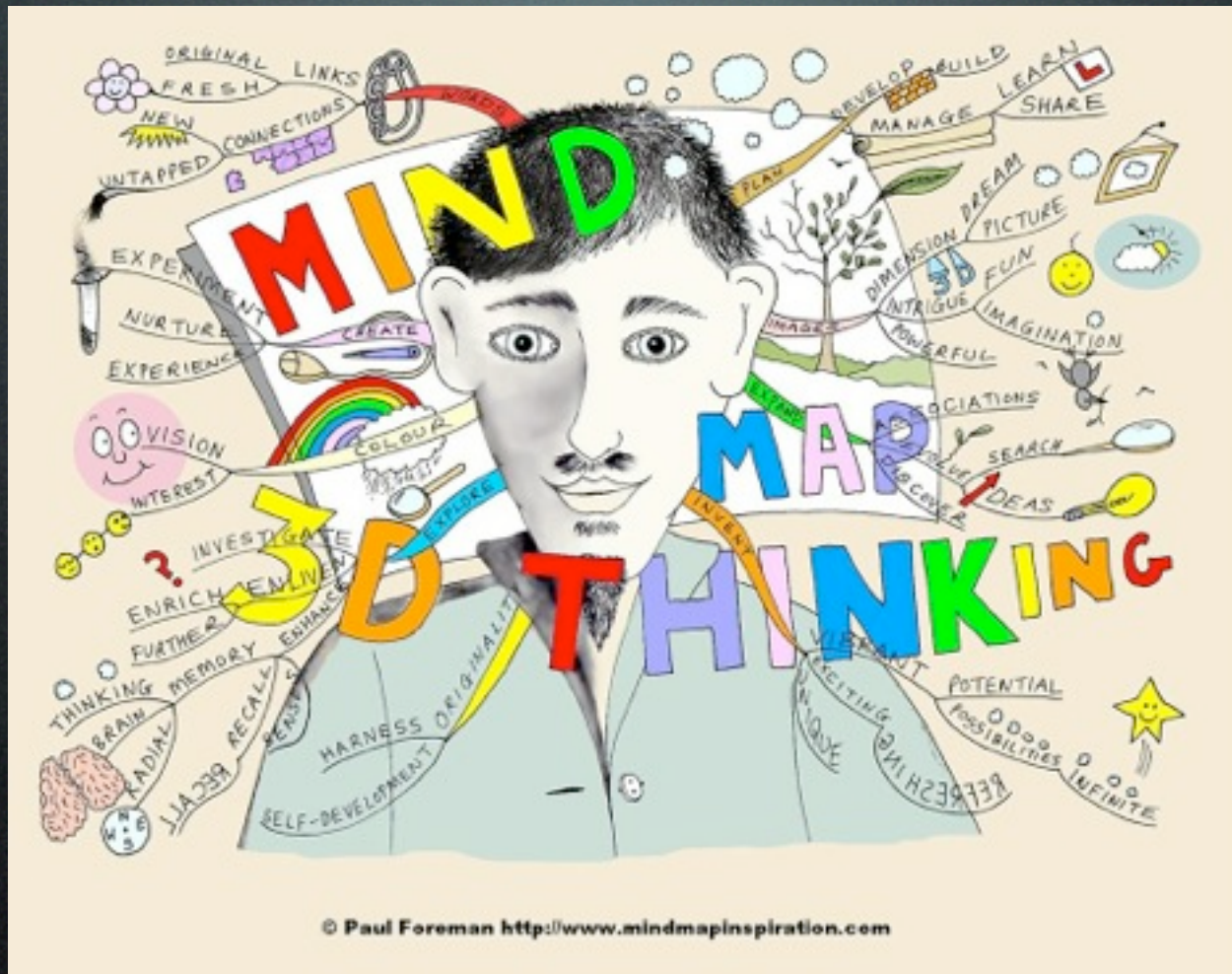
Writing Strategies



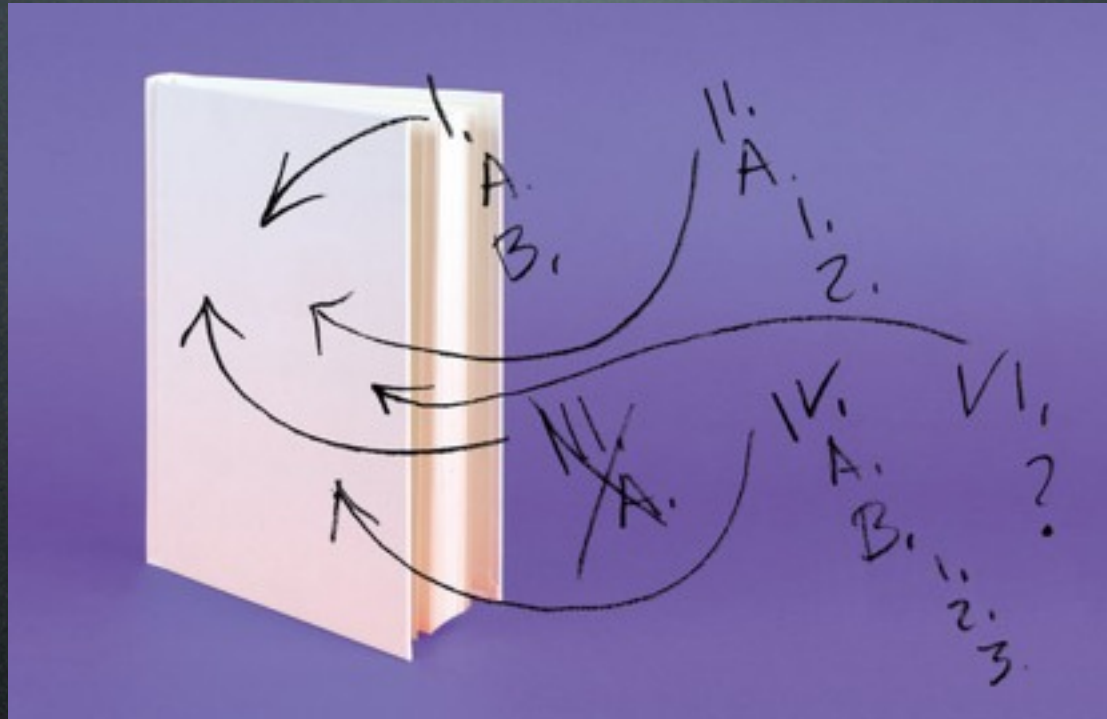
Writing Strategies



Writing Strategies



Writing Strategies



Writing Strategies



Is writing an Art or Craft?



Wrapping up...

Overview

1) Writing norms and guidelines (abstract as an example)

2) Overall article structure (IMRAD)

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Thank You!

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