

English 209: Writing About Science | Spring 2021
Introduction to Science Writing
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Note: Unless otherwise noted, this material is adapted from The Chicago Guide to Communicating Science (ed. Scott Montgomery). See, in particular, Chapter 2: “The Language of Science”

Five Fundamental Questions for Good Scientific Storytelling

1. What did you (and your coauthors?) do?
2. Why did you do it?
3. How did you do it?
4. What did you find?
5. What does it mean?

Structural Considerations for Good Scientific Storytelling

As you move through the scientific paper, try following this idea map:

1. Declare what is important or novel about the research
2. State that the research “problem” has not yet been solved (i.e., making clear the stakes of the research)
3. Discussion of research findings
4. Qualification of findings (what has to be done still? what are limitations of the study?)
5. Specify again the importance

Remember the “hourglass” structure! (General → specific → general)