**Pitching your Paper**

**The working title** *Just list keywords if you can’t come up with a title:*

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***The authors*** *Draft a potential authorship list. Think about author order:*

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**The Abstract**

**1. The hook** *Here is what we know*:

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**2. The knowledge gap** *Here is what we don’t know:*

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**3. The study motivation** *Here is how we are going to fill this knowledge gap*:

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**4. The methods** *Here is what we did:*

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**5. The results** *Here is what we found:*

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**6. The take-home message** *Here is why we should care:*

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**Hypotheses and research questions**

*List the research questions and hypotheses being tested in the study: This will become the last few sentences of your introduction.*

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| --- |
| Q1:  H1: |

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| Q2:  H2: |

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| Q3:  H3: |

**Results**

*List the primary results of the manuscript in order from most exciting to least:*

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| 1.  2.  3. |

*Include the figures (or tables) that back up these results (draft their captions, try to include the result in the caption description):*

Figure 1…

Figure 2…

Figure 3…

**Methods**

*List in bullet form using headings if necessary the relevant results for the manuscript that were used to create the data presented above. Do not include any additional results apart from brief descriptions of the study site, or similar.*

* …
* …
* …

**Discussion**

**The summary paragraph**

*State the major findings of the paper in one or two sentences: This will become the first paragraph of the discussion. Check that you refer back to each of the research questions/hypotheses identified above.*

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| --- |
| In this study we… |

**The rest of the discussion**

*List the key discussion points relevant to the presented findings that will form each paragraph of the discussion:*

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| --- |
| 1.  2.  3. |

*List the key papers that need to be referenced here:*

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**The Introduction**

*What is the big picture context of this work? Restate your hook as a list of bullet points. This will become the pitch that starts off your introduction and will frame the entire paper. Think about alternative pitches and consider which might work best (e.g., “The arctic is warming… how will plants respond” versus “Ecological theory predicts range shifts with climate warming…”)*

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*What is the knowledge gap that you are filling? – This will become the last sentence of the first paragraph of the introduction.*

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*List the key intro topics needed to back up the points you are making in the discussion:*

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| --- |
| 1.  2.  3. |

*Restate the motivation for your study: This will be the first sentence of the last paragraph of the discussion.*

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| --- |
| In this study we will address… |

*List your hypotheses or research questions: This will be the remaining sentences of the last paragraph of your discussion.*

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| --- |
| We will test the following hypotheses: 1)… |

*List the key papers that need to be referenced here:*

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**The Conclusion**

*Restate your overall take-home message:*

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*List the larger implications of this study: How is this work relevant to the scientific community? – This is your chance to speculate a bit!!!*

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*The final thought: - How do you want to end the paper? This is your chance to make a lasting impression.*

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