**Research territory definition**

A few sentences laying out the broadest possible context for the work

**Niche establishment within research territory**

A concrete and narrow open problem within the research territory

Pointing out a gap in the knowledge of some topic

Noting an apparent contradiction in the literature or a published claim that is vulnerable to new data

Identifying rival theoretical models that can be distinguished by new data

Suggesting an entirely novel way of thinking about a research area

clearly and specifically state the central research question

**Niche occupation**

how we occupied the niche we just identified

outline the approach

Observations and / or executed theory

General form of the data (what quantities and how we measured them)

How analyses of the data can can answer the central research question

Maybe end the introduction with a short summary of our main results and conclusion (even if they are already stated in the abstract)