

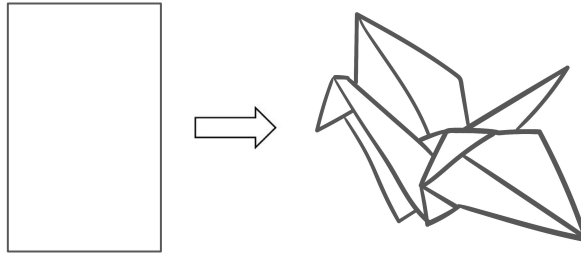
- Money (\$500-\$1000)
- Looks good on a CV (helping you win other things!)
- Teaches you how to organize your thoughts as an elevator pitch
- Helps you write anything - an abstract, a paper, a fellowship

**Why do the Three Minute Thesis?**

- **S**imple (not simplistic)
- **U**nexpected (what they will remember)
- **C**oncrete (ground your idea)
- **E**mootional (Why should I care?)
- **S**tory (Opening → Challenge → Action → Resolution)

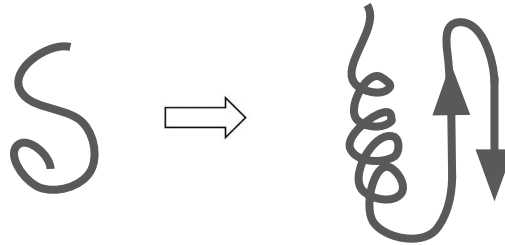
**How to make a Three Minute Thesis? SUCcESs!**

**Paper**



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*Folded*



**Protein**

**Glycosyltransferases** = Sugar Building Enzymes

**Origami: Evolution's Secret to the Complexity of Life**

## Paper

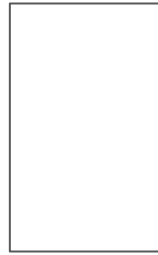
Simple idea



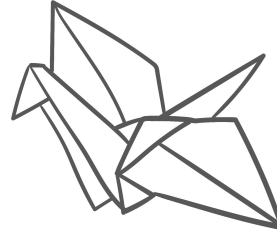
Unexpected



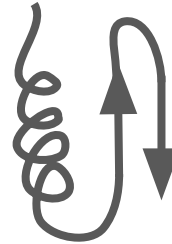
First place won for  
comparing how pathogens  
enter cells to The Grinch



*Unfolded*



*Folded*



## Protein

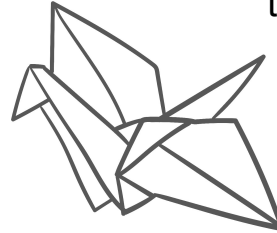
**Glycosyltransferases** = Sugar Building Enzymes

# Origami: Evolution's Secret to the Complexity of Life

## Paper



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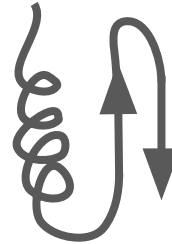


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## Concrete and Story-like:

What are the key takeaways? Use that to build your story.

- I study proteins using computer simulations.
- These simulations tell me how proteins move (fold) from one shape to another, like shapes when folding an origami crane.
- Understanding protein folding tells me how they function (eg to build sugars)
- With origami, you can fold more than just paper cranes. Similarly, different proteins evolve to fold and move in diff ways



## Protein

**Glycosyltransferases** = Sugar Building Enzymes

# Origami: Evolution's Secret to the Complexity of Life

## Keeping it emotional

A good opening makes it clear what the paper is about, frames the problem, and introduces the critical character(s)

A good opening is also geared with an audience in mind!

### **Academic** Audience:

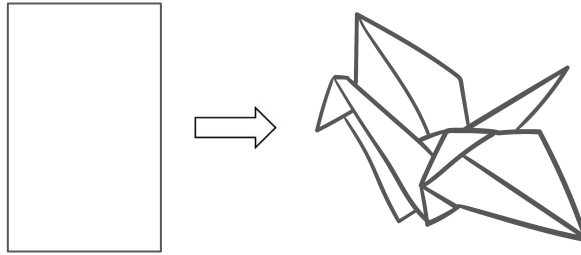
The influence of fog on ecological and hydrological processes in coastal zones has long intrigued scientists.

### **Generalist** Audience:

California's coastal forests are among its most distinctive and treasured natural resources.

**How do I make a good Three Minute Thesis?**

## Paper

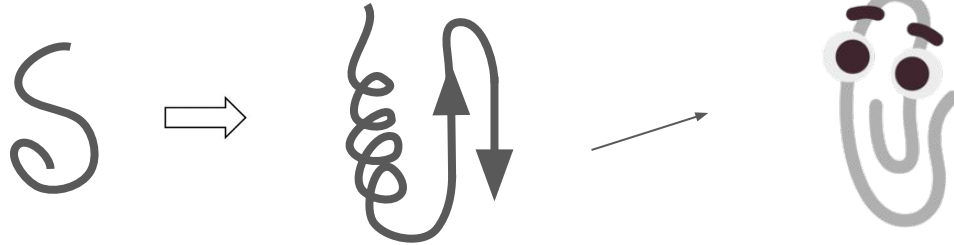


*Unfolded*

*Folded*

Find a simple metaphor  
and keep referencing it –  
**protein, origami, folding**

Another way of keeping it  
emotional



**Protein**

Relate to what the audience  
knows (eg the Grinch)

**Glycosyltransferases** = Sugar Building Enzymes

# Origami: Evolution's Secret to the Complexity of Life

- Brittany and I couldn't have placed in top ten without the advice of faculty and fellow students.
- Being able to explain your research clearly and w/ concision = **one of the most important professional skills you should learn during the PhD.**
- Use us as a soundboard to improve that skillset, don't shy away from participating
  - it's a judgement-free zone
  - you can't give a good talk without multiple bad practice talks

**So sign up and practice at 8060!**