What is the 2000-word essay?

- Aim to identify any aspect of the taught material that you feel is unsupported

  - *Focus on lack of support across the field*

  - *Does the topic have many unanswered questions?*

  - *Do the explanations make sense?*

  - *Is there a cottage industry of alternative models out there?*

  - *Do not focus on possible errors in lectures*

What is the 2000-word essay?

- Identify the topic
- Identify issues with the model
- Identify data and evidence that suggests model needs revising
- Suggest and defend new model or models
    - *'Multiple working hypotheses'*
    - *New model should have better fit with data*

ALMOST ALL PUBLISHED PAPERS ARE WRONG!!

What is the 2000-word essay?

- The 2000-word essay should be partly a literature review

- You need to have a substantive understanding of topic

- You need to have read around topic thoroughly

- Aim to write like a *Nature* 'Review Article'

How will the essay be assessed?

- Scientific writing quality (30%)

  - *10% for overall quality*

  - *20% for avoiding common errors*

- Depth of understanding (30%)

  - *Quality of reference list*

  - *Demonstrable understanding of literature and issues*

- Identification of incorrect 'paradigm' (20%)

- Introduction of alternate hypotheses (20%)

DUE: May 1, 2018