

Week 13 Writing assignment

Due Wed 12/24 by midnight

Compile all of the below exercises into one document and call it HW_13_yourname on github.

Feel free to use MS Word for this exercise, but save as a pdf for viewing on github.

Motivation:

Learning to be a good scientific writer often takes a good amount of effort. One helpful technique is to examine how a scientific paper is written by dissecting its abstract, paragraph and sentence structure.

Part 1:

Read the abstract and introduction to Krumhardt et al. 2019

For the abstract, dissect the structure. Turn the abstract into bullet points that summarize the paper in terms of its sections: introduction, methods, results and discussion, and conclusions. You might need to skim the paper to identify where things go.

Dissect each paragraph in the introduction. Identify the subject sentence that tells the reader what the paragraph is about. Can you read this and get most of the info in the paragraph? Then turn the rest of the paragraph into bullet points. Identify if/how the paragraphs flow into one another.

Identify the broader purpose for each paragraph. How does the introduction set up the paper in a more abstract way? For example, is one paragraph about what has been done before, and one paragraph about what the broader motivation/impact/reason for doing this work is?

Part 2:

Now turn to your final project proposal, and rewrite your abstract and introduction. You can use this for your final paper.

First, divide your abstract into material from relevant sections. You will likely leave space for results.

Take your introduction and turn it into subject sentences and bullet points, as you did above.

You might want to modify and rewrite these as you go, thinking about how well logically organized your bullet points are, and how well you are setting up what you are writing about.

Now put your abstract and introduction back into paragraphs. Include both your bullet points and your paragraphs in what you turn in.