

Scientific Writing in the EAS Dept

Writing effectively, giving & receiving feedback, general admin...

Day 3; 19 Oct 2022

Overarching objectives

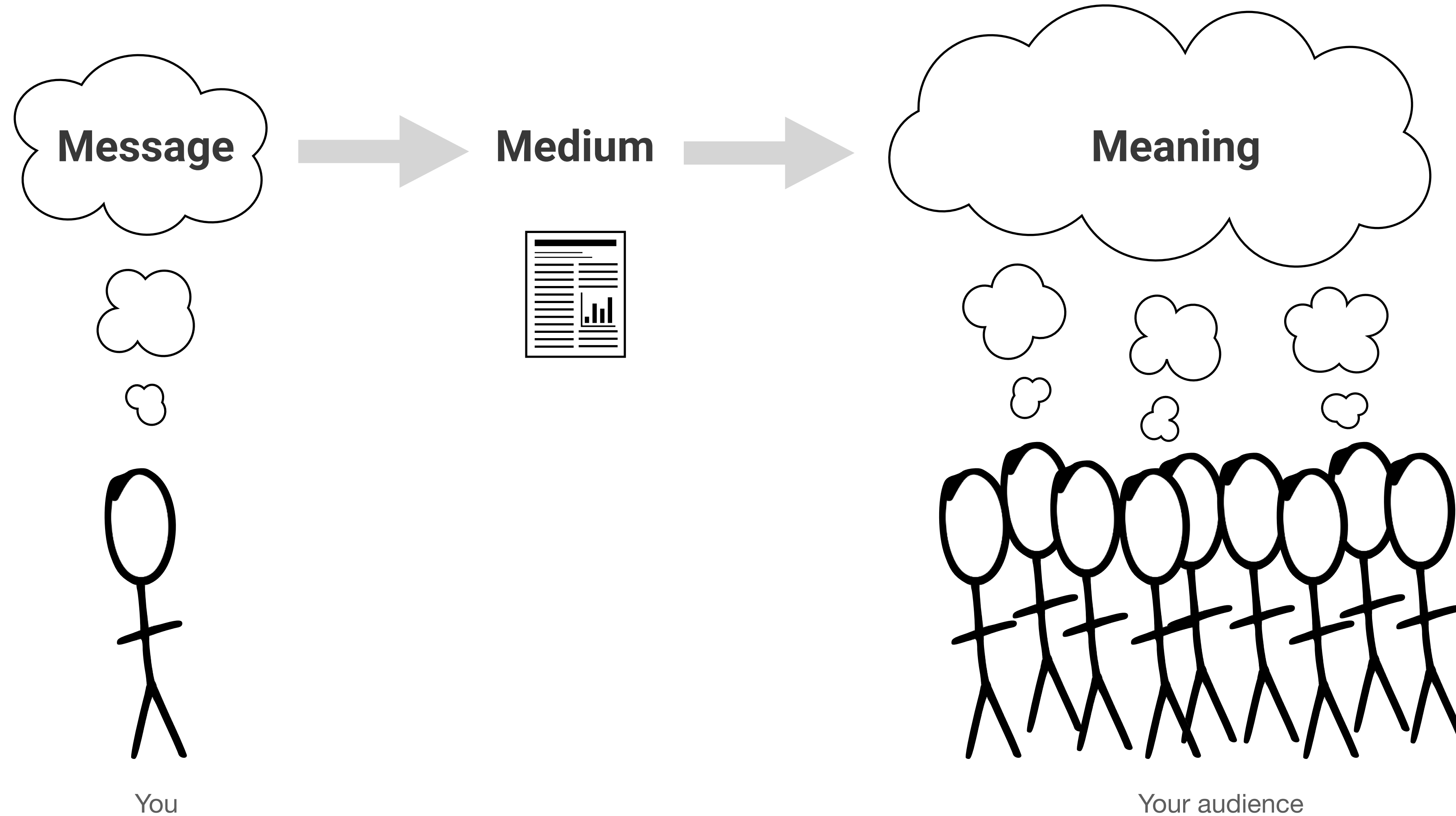
Our papers are written effectively

We habitually exchange feedback on written work

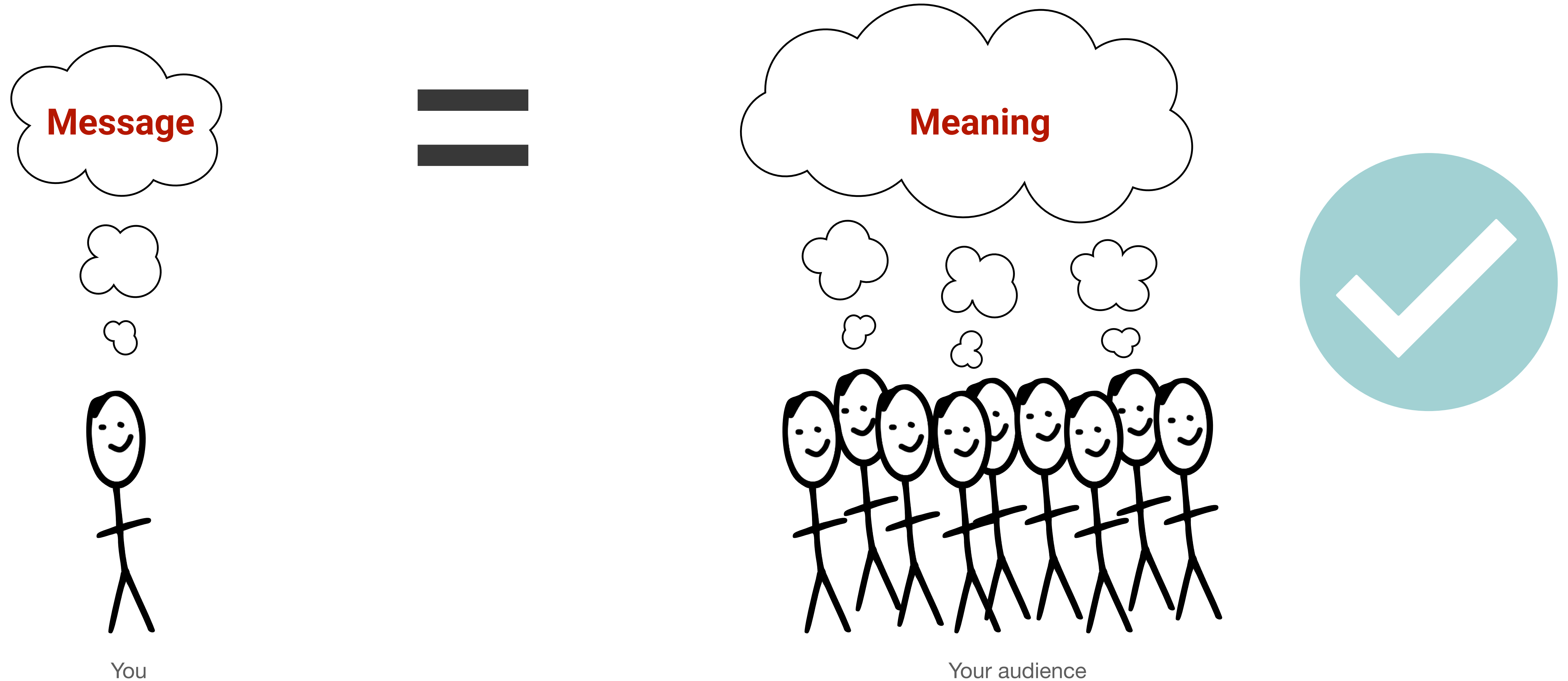
We have a shared set of guidelines for basic publishing admin

**Our papers are written
effectively**

What constitutes effective scientific writing?



What constitutes effective scientific writing?



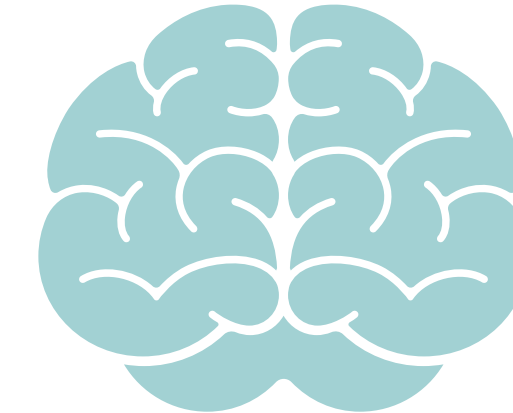
If your audience can easily understand your message, you have written effectively.

Two aspects of effective writing



The mechanics of effective writing

- Content
- Structure
- Language



The mentality of effective writing

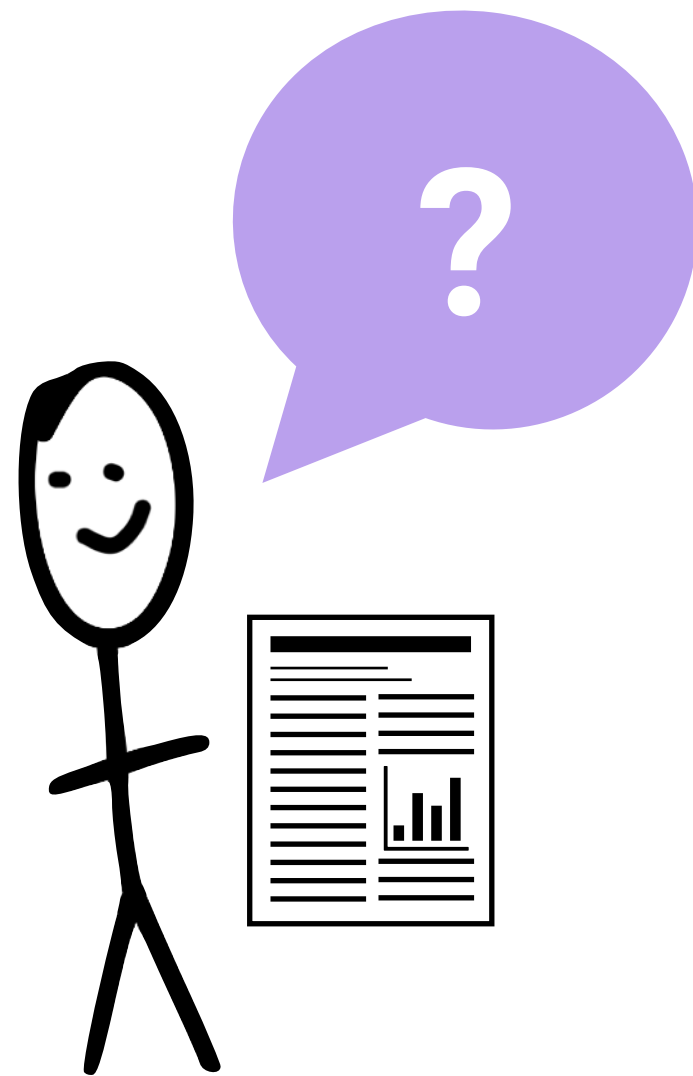
- Mindset
- Approach
- Workflow

**We habitually exchange
feedback on written work**

The best ways to improve our writing

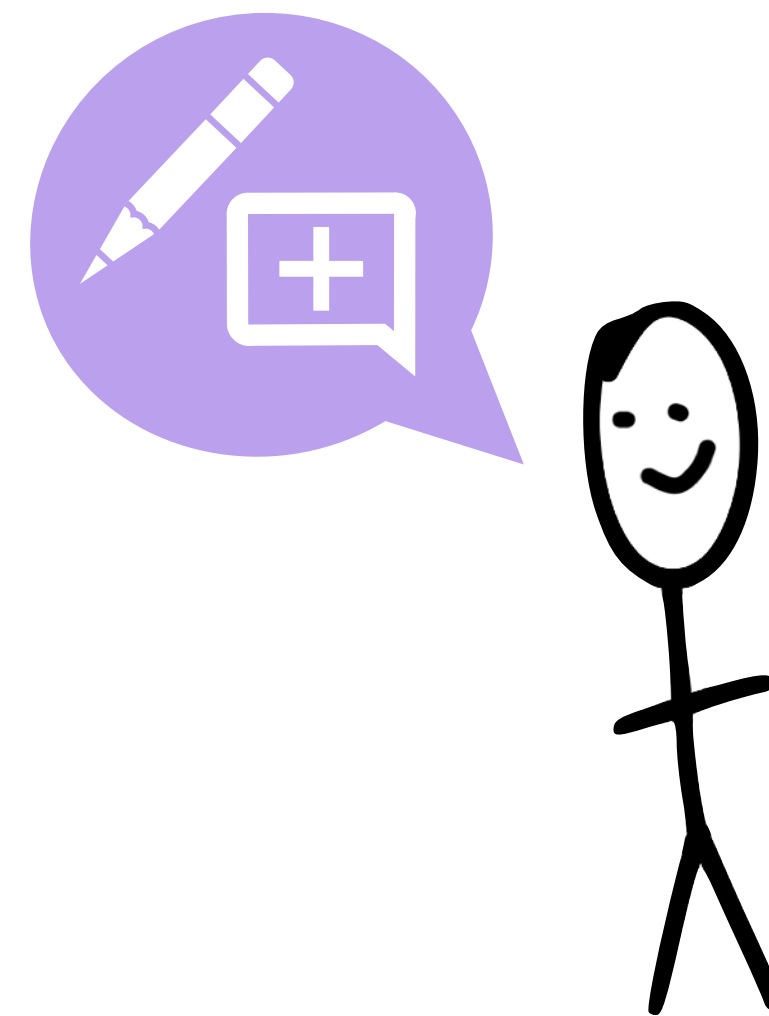
Receiving feedback

- The only way to really know what your audience gets from your writing



Giving feedback

- It is often easier to see merits and faults when critically considering writing that is unfamiliar



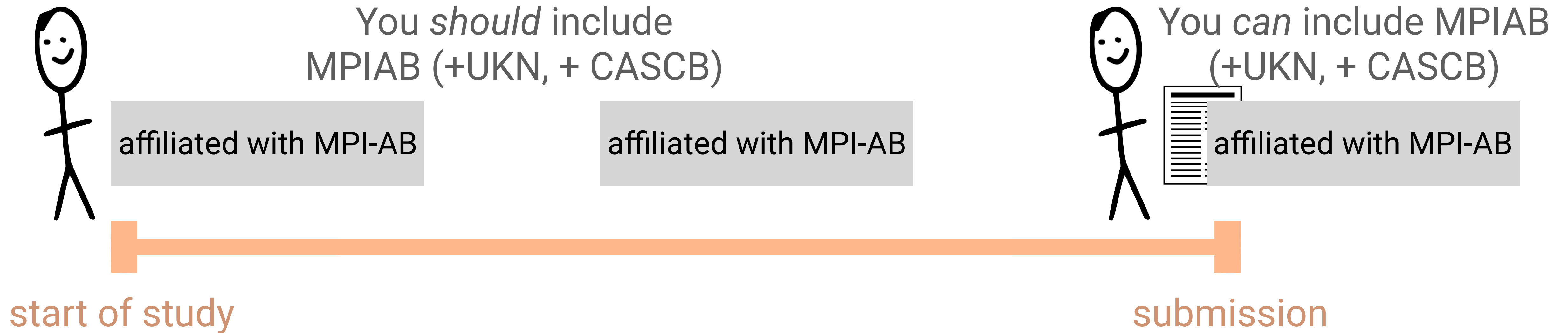
Possible avenues to normalize feedback exchange



- Writing Feedback Workshop
 - A person opts to have their text circulated to other members in the department, we meet to discuss and give them feedback
 - If you'd like to try this, let me know!
- Other ideas? Come talk to me :)

**We have a shared set of
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publishing admin**

Affiliations



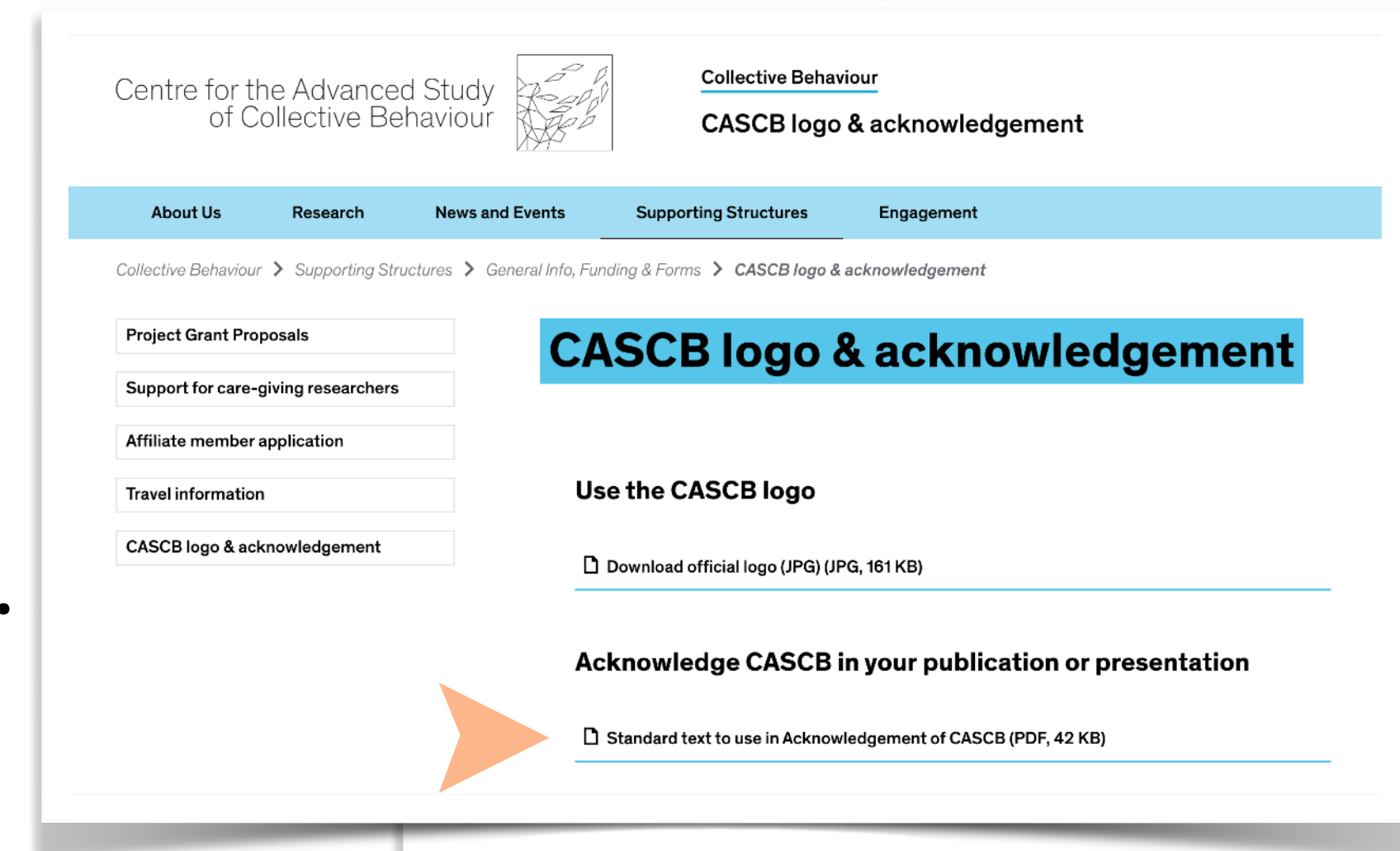
- If the affiliation and email address of the corresponding author is MPG, then the MPG will cover Open Access publishing costs.
- Check with Daniel Piechowski for details

Acknowledgements

- Anybody who helped with the study (data collection, analysis, writing), but not to the level of warranting authorship
- All relevant authorities, government bodies, institutions that provided permits and/or research support
- Get input/confirmation from co-authors
- Funders (if no specific 'Funding' section)...

Funders

- List all funders in a specific “Funding” section, or in acknowledgements
- Include appropriate information...
 - Specify grant number, if applicable
 - Use correct phrasing, e.g., for the Cluster...
- Get input/confirmation from co-authors



Important: Cluster Dedication
On All Publications and Public Presentations

„Gefördert durch die **Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)** im Rahmen der Exzellenzstrategie des Bundes und der Länder **EXC 2117 – 422037984**“

„... funded by the **Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)**, German Research Foundation) under Germany's Excellence Strategy – **EXC 2117 – 422037984**“

Non-English abstracts

- If your study system resides in a non-English-speaking area, consider publishing an abstract in that area's language
- Some (many?) journals will accept an additional non-English abstract
 - If not - put it in Supplementary Materials

Authorship

- Open this conversation early on with your collaborators/team
- Write this into your Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA)
- Keep the discussion open as the project outputs evolve and change (and keep your CRA up-to-date)

Authorship

M A X - P L A N C K - G E S E L L S C H A F T

Rules of Good Scientific Practice

*- adopted by the senate of the Max Planck Society
on November 24, 2000, amended on March 20, 2009 -*



- “...the only persons who may be credited as co-authors are those who themselves made a considerable contribution to the design of the studies or experiments, to working out, analysing or interpreting the data and to drawing up the manuscript...”
- “[All co-authors must have] agreed to [the manuscript’s] publication.”
- “Management of the organisation unit in which the publication arose is not, in itself, sufficient grounds to claim authorship...”
- “The authors always bear joint responsibility for the content...”

Authorship



**Guidelines for Safeguarding
Good Research Practice**

Code of Conduct

"An author is an individual who has made a genuine, identifiable contribution to the content of a research publication...

All authors agree on the final version of the work to be published.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise, they share responsibility for the publication.

Explanations:

The contribution must add to the research content of the publication. What constitutes a genuine and identifiable contribution must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and depends on the subject area in question. An identifiable, genuine contribution is deemed to exist particularly in instances in which a researcher – in a research-relevant way – takes part in:

- the development and conceptual design of the research project, or
- the gathering, collection, acquisition or provision of data, software or sources, or
- the analysis/evaluation or interpretation of data, sources and conclusions drawn from them, or
- the drafting of the manuscript.

A leadership or supervisory function does not itself constitute co-authorship."

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With respect to our field of research...

- What does and does not constitute a “genuine, identifiable contribution”?
- What (if any) categories of potential contributions would you add?
- Would you add, remove, or change anything?

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Authorship Discussion Notes

- It is usually really difficult for students and people lower on the pyramid to initiate discussions about authorship - post-docs and supervisors/PIs should initiate these discussions early, encourage open discussion of roles and expectations
 - Same goes for drafting/establishing CRAs - these can be hard topics for students to broach, and higher-ups need to initiate/normalize these discussions and/or make clear that it's ok for students to ask/push for this
- If you're unsure whether or not somebody (a student, an assistant, and helpful statistician, etc) truly qualifies for authorship, you can give them the option to 'opt in' on joint responsibility for the paper & their name as a co-author
 - Depending on what they've already contributed, 'opting in' can be conditional on further contributions (e.g., help with writing and/or proofreading the manuscript, joining in on project meetings & contributing some ideas, translating the abstract, etc)
 - Just because somebody was paid for their work, this doesn't preclude them from being credited as a co-author (but whether or not they have any interest in co-authorship may depend on their career goals wrt to academia)
- It is important to include co-authors who are from the area wherein the fieldwork for a study took place; involving habitat-country collaborators/staff is an important aspect of not doing helicopter/colonial science, and is also important for ensuring that our research is recognised and has impact in the areas where it comes from
 - We should strive for habitat-country co-authors to be meaningful collaborators on, and participants in, our research (not just 'token names')
 - Habitat-country collaborators, students, assistants, etc, who meet (or nearly meet) the conditions for co-authorship should be given the opportunity to 'opt in' on authorship & joint responsibility
- Middle authorships won't 'make' your career, but they can still be really important, especially for students (building both their CV and their experience); on the flip side, there aren't any obvious/common drawbacks to having multiple middle authors on a paper that you have first- or last-authored, so when in doubt, it makes sense to be inclusive rather than exclusive
- We should aim to always list authors' contributions on papers so that - especially - middle authors' work can be appropriately recognized
 - If this isn't required by the journal, and there isn't a specific space for it, then it could go in supp mats
 - Where appropriate, make use of co-first-authorships and indicators of equal contribution