

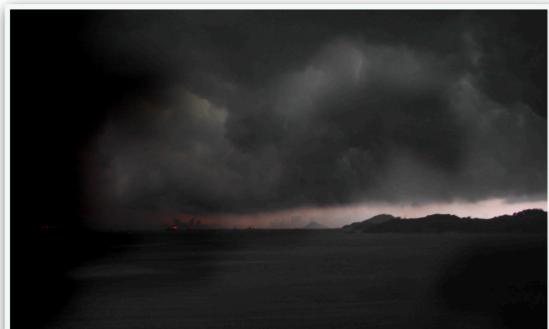
Writing Workshop

CSCI 8901:
Research & Evaluation Methods

Prof. Tim Wood
GWU

Intros / Abstracts

1. Set context
2. Show a problem
3. Review existing approaches
4. Name a solution
5. Hint at an evaluation plus implications



The world is a
terrible, terrible
place.



But imagine how
wonderful it could be if
we could figure out
how to do X!



My work helps us get one
step closer to the magical
dream world!

Write an abstract...

Imagine you are the scientist behind the first:

- Covid vaccine
- $O(n \log(n))$ sorting algorithm
- Real-time spoken language translation system

Follow our recipe, but don't be overly dramatic

- The goal is science, not marketing

~15 minutes

Discuss with a Partner

How similar or different are your abstracts?

- Same topic or different?

What is a strength you see in your partner's abstract?

What is a weakness you now see in your own?

~8 minutes

Improve

Work together with your partner to write an improved abstract for a **different** topic

~10 minutes

How to Write Papers so People can Read Them

By Derek Dreyer at ICFP 2020

<https://youtu.be/XpgJ31GKPWI?t=90>



CGI Model

Context

- Set the stage, motivate the general topic

Gap

- Explain your specific problem and why existing work doesn't solve it

Innovation

- State what you've done that is new and explain how it fills the gap

From Derek Dreyer, How to Write Papers so People can Read Them

Dreyer's Principles

Flow via "old to new"

Coherence via "one paragraph, one point"

Name your baby, just in time, short subjects

CGI model for abstract/intro

Scaffold presentation with "key ideas" section

Detailed related work section goes at the end

From Derek Dreyer, How to Write Papers so People can Read Them

Your Own Research

Write an **extended** abstract for your current research project

- It's ok if you aren't quite sure what you are doing or your project is changing... just pick something for now

Can use your Project Overview as a base

- Update your "storyline" based on what we have discussed
- Think about your flow of ideas within sentences and paragraphs