



Writing Habits and Process: Getting Your Research Out There

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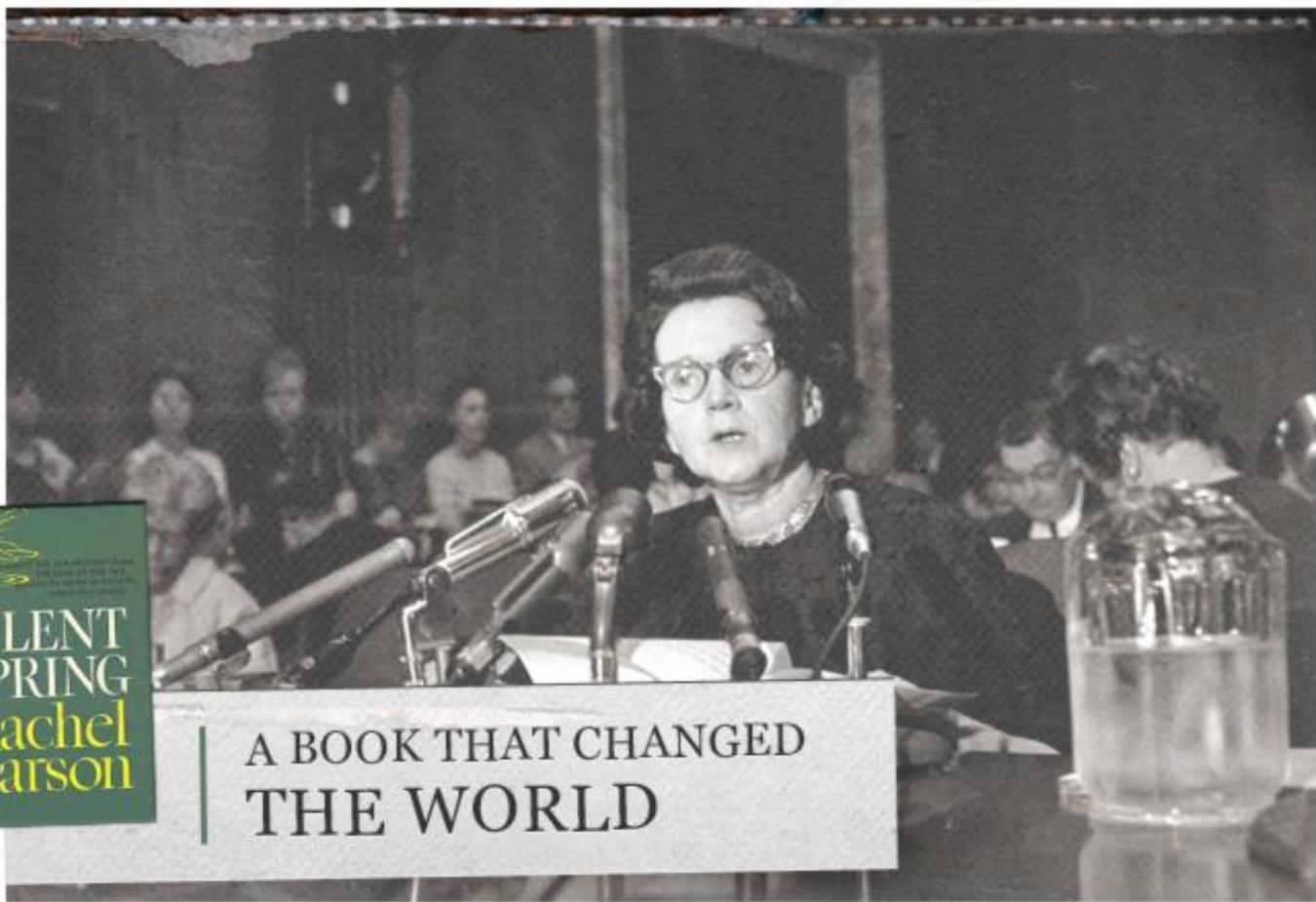
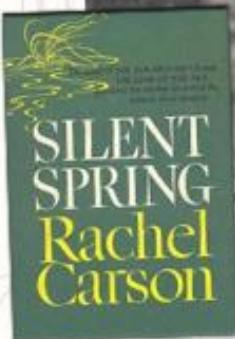
Today

- Introduction. **Why research? Why write?** How do the two work together for lasting impact?
- Exploring your **motivations**.
- Communications theory: **audience, message, author, context.**
- **The narrative:** practice communicating your work.
- Tips for **getting your work out there;** increasing writing **productivity.**

WHY RESEARCH?



WHY WRITE?



A BOOK THAT CHANGED
THE WORLD

Discover
(Problem-solving
Research,
Documenting,
Reporting)



Change; Positive
Impact

Communicate
(Storytelling;
Using Evidence,
Argument,
Appeal)

"I know, therefore I adapt?" Complexities of individual adaptation to climate-induced forest dieback in Alaska

Version: 2 Submitted: 2015-12-04



ECOSP

Long-term vegetation changes in a temperate forest impacted by climate change

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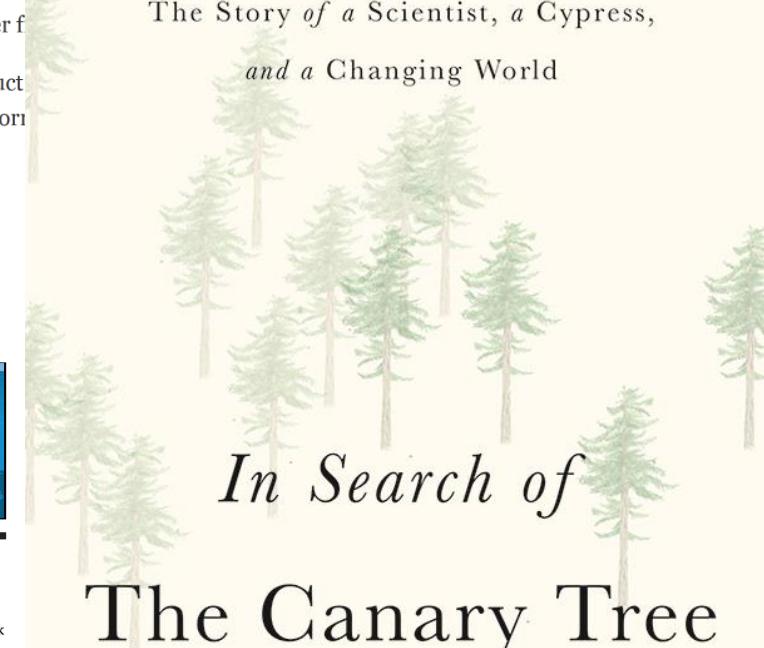
In the Wild, Seeking an Answer: What Replaces Dying Trees?

By Lauren E. Oakes

The c
Ocean. Fj
Dressed l
weather f

Duct
mid-mori

The Story of a Scientist, a Cypress,
and a Changing World



The Canary Tree

LAUREN E. OAKES

Conservation in a social-ecological system experiencing climate-induced
tree mortality



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ABSTRACT

We present a social-ecological framework to provide insight into climate adaptation strategies and diverse perspectives on interventions in protected areas for species experiencing climate-induced impacts. To develop



The Art of Turning Climate Change Science into Music

Environmental researchers are transforming big data into classical music and giving voice to not-always-accessible environmental issues. Call it the sound of science.

By: Brad Rassler Sep 6, 2016



Lauren Oakes gathers data on a changing forest in Alaska. Her data will later be turned into music, informed by factors like crown size. Photo:Courtesy of Lauren Oakes



A forest in southeastern Alaska affected by yellow-cedar decline

The Sound of Climate Change

A musician translated the changing ecology of a forest into song.



TEXT SIZE
-

SCIENCE

MICHELLE NIJHUIS | SEP 14, 2016

Another Skill to Master

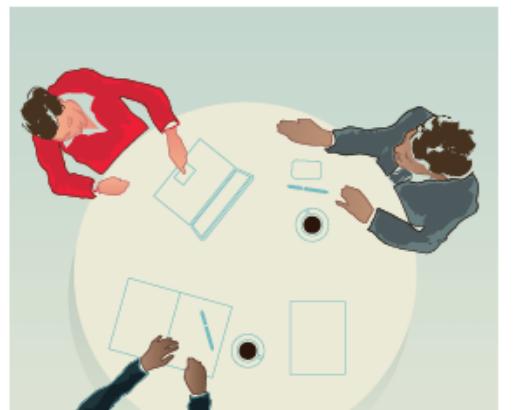
COLUMN

Writing takes work

Professors and students alike can benefit from attending a writers' workshop, says **Eli Lazarus**.

This year, I've spent a lot of time working with graduate students on their writing. They were preparing manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication, and wanted to lead the writing process from first cut to submission. The result, in addition to a stack of drafts, has been an unexpected and welcome education for me — a raft of challenges in learning to write, in teaching writing and in the craft of writing.

Writing is hard work, even for people who enjoy it. In my most impatient moments, I think of what William Shawn, legendary edi-



CAREERS

- Next Generation Science Communications Scholar, NSF/Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes, 2010
- Environmental Reportage Residency, BANFF Centre for the Arts, 2015
- Other Opportunities: AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship; National Association of Science Writers; Stanford Hume Center

In your academic field,
how would you explain
your research and the
contribution you
intend to make?

(Free-write, 3-4 min.)

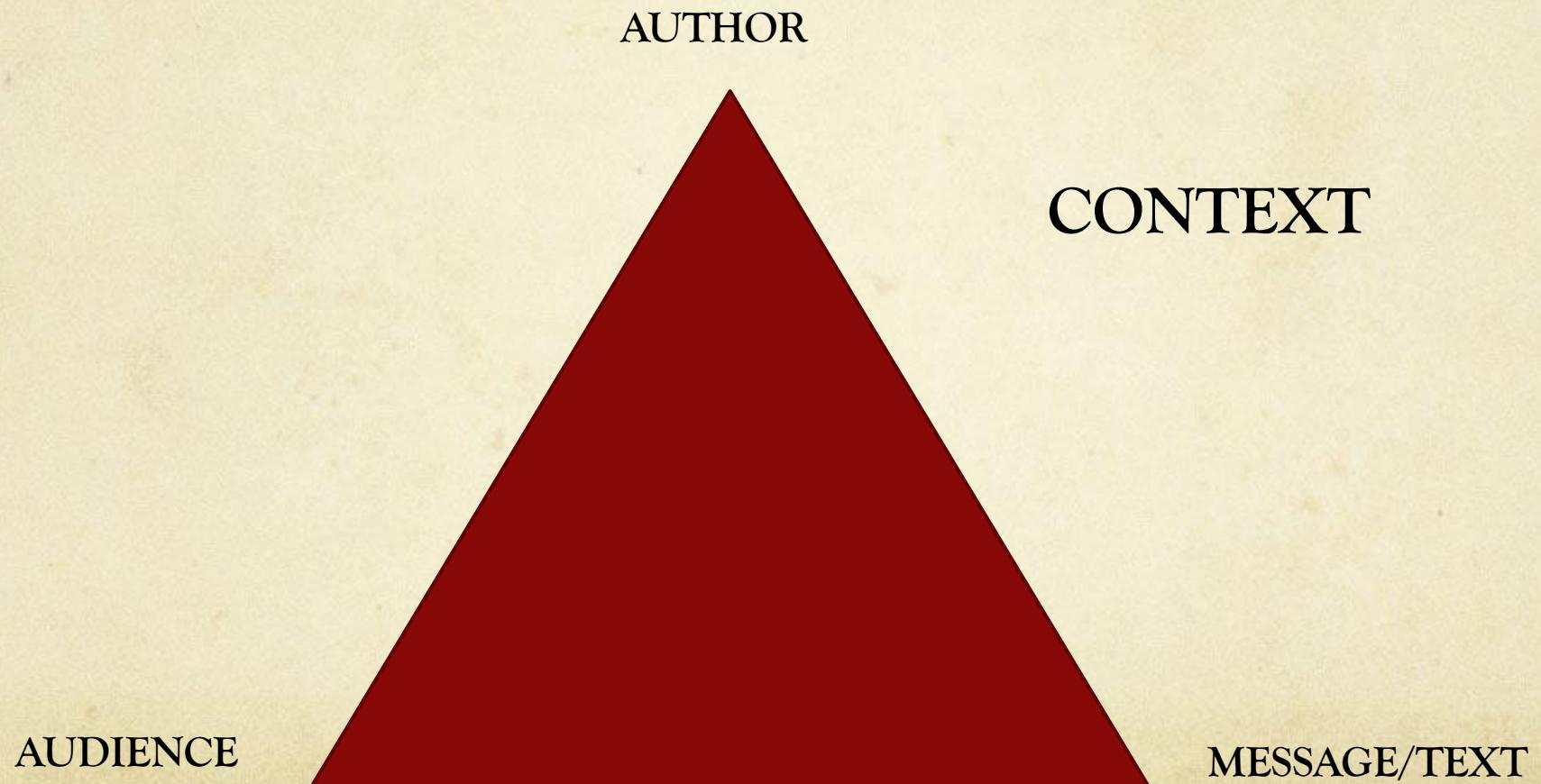


Why for me?
Why for the world?



(Free-write, 3-4 min.)

In Communications:



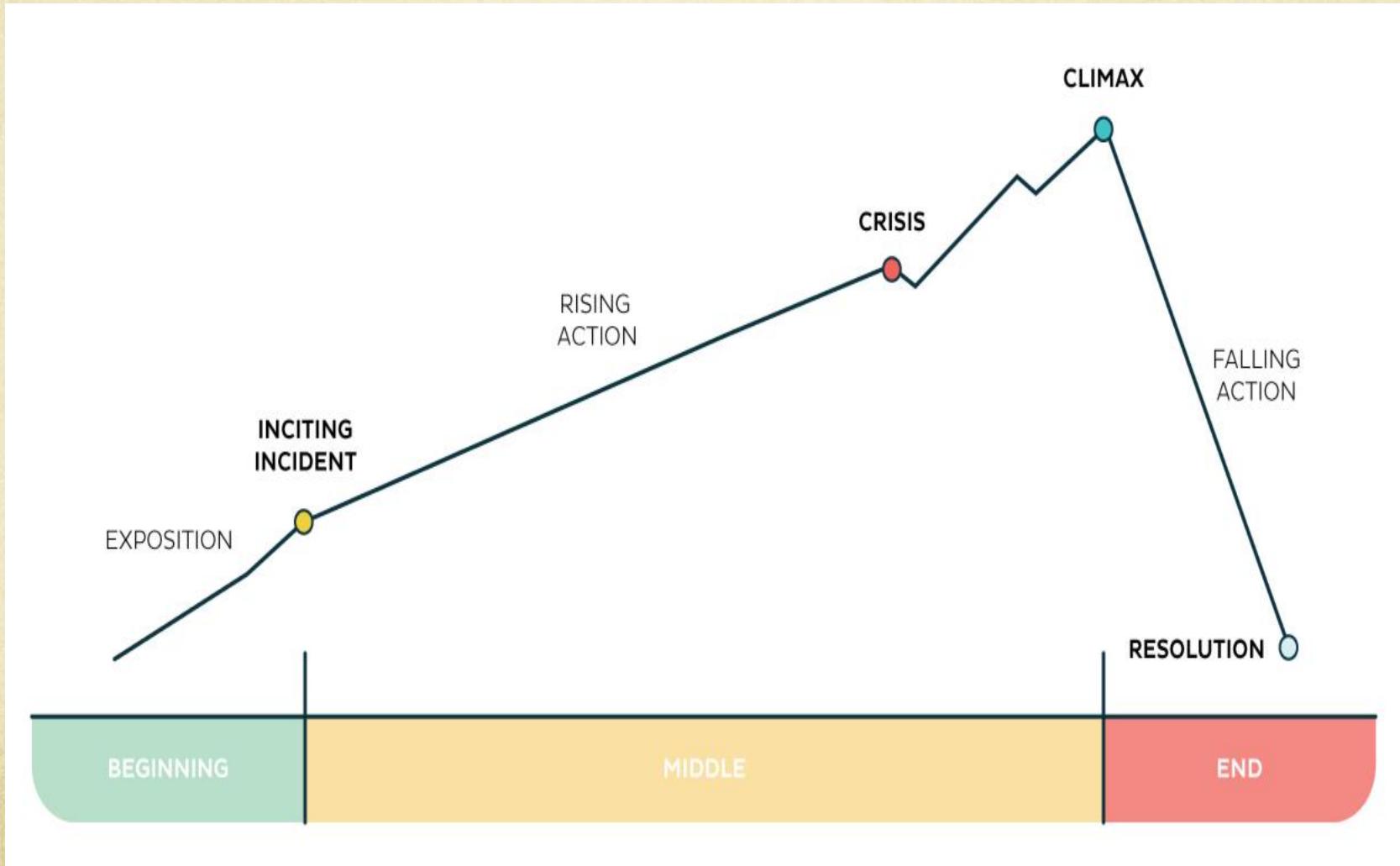
Writing for Academic Audience vs. Broader Audience

- Convey knowledge, data, information
- Moves us while teaching

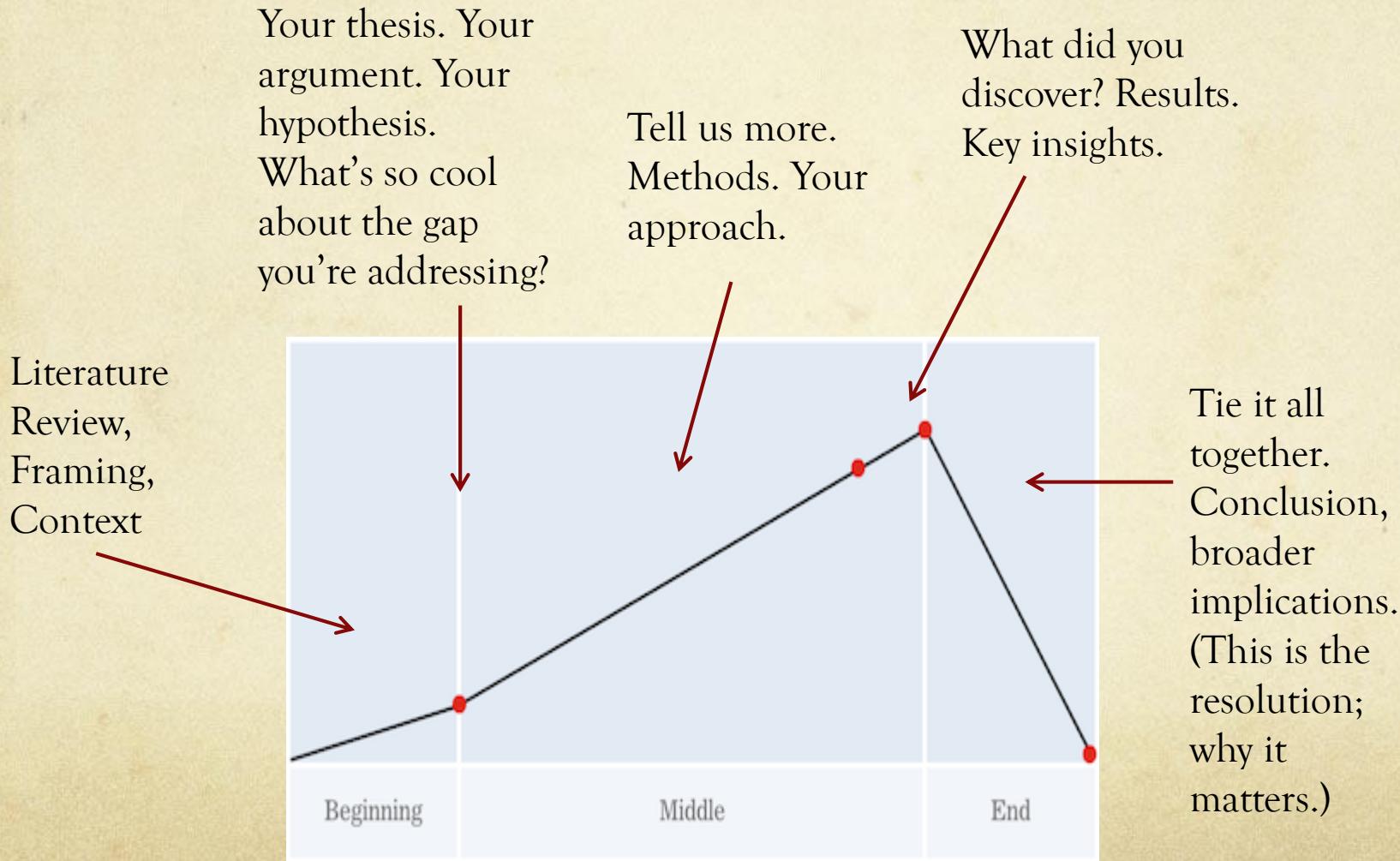
Storytelling

- Somewhat rigid
- Creative process, takes on many forms

The Narrative Arc in Creative Writing



There's still an arc to your scholarly and scientific writing...



“If a story is in you, it has got
to come out.”

- William Faulkner

DROUGHT

9 August 2017 18:00

Letter

Ecosystems facing ‘double whammy’ due to increasing impacts of drought



Dead trees and grasses at Everglades National Park, Florida, US, 18/12/2016. Credit: Dennis Cox / Alamy Stock Photo



ROBERT MCSWEENEY

09.08.2017 | 6:00pm

DROUGHT

Ecosystems facing ‘double whammy’ due to increasing impacts of drought



Trees and plants across the world are increasingly in “recovery mode” after a drought, a new study says, and they’re taking longer to bounce back.

Turn to Your Neighbor

- 1) If he/she were in your lab group, how would you summarize what you study and why?
- 2) If he/she were a random person sitting next to you on a plane, how would you summarize what you study and why?

Try them both!

2-3 sentences is all you get for each one!

Tips for Getting Your Work Out There



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THE CONVERSATION

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again.

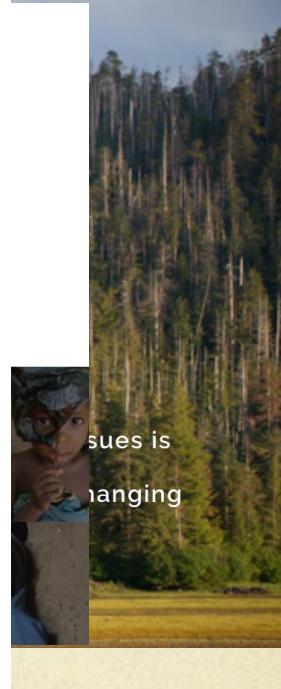
- Consider writing for an online outlet such as The Conversation



Our applied conservation science research and outreach program investigates the effects of land development and human activities on wildlife and biodiversity.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK

We are especially motivated by research that will advance our understanding of how species and ecosystems respond to human disturbance, while also contributing to practical solutions for conservation. We work regularly with communities, government agencies, and conservation organizations to apply ecological science to inform conservation planning and land-use policy.



RESEARCH

We ask questions related to three topics: how to design **residential developments** to protect **wildlife habitats**, how to **balance growth**,

OUTREACH

With our focus on practical solutions for conservation, our scientific research is only the beginning of our work. We regularly engage

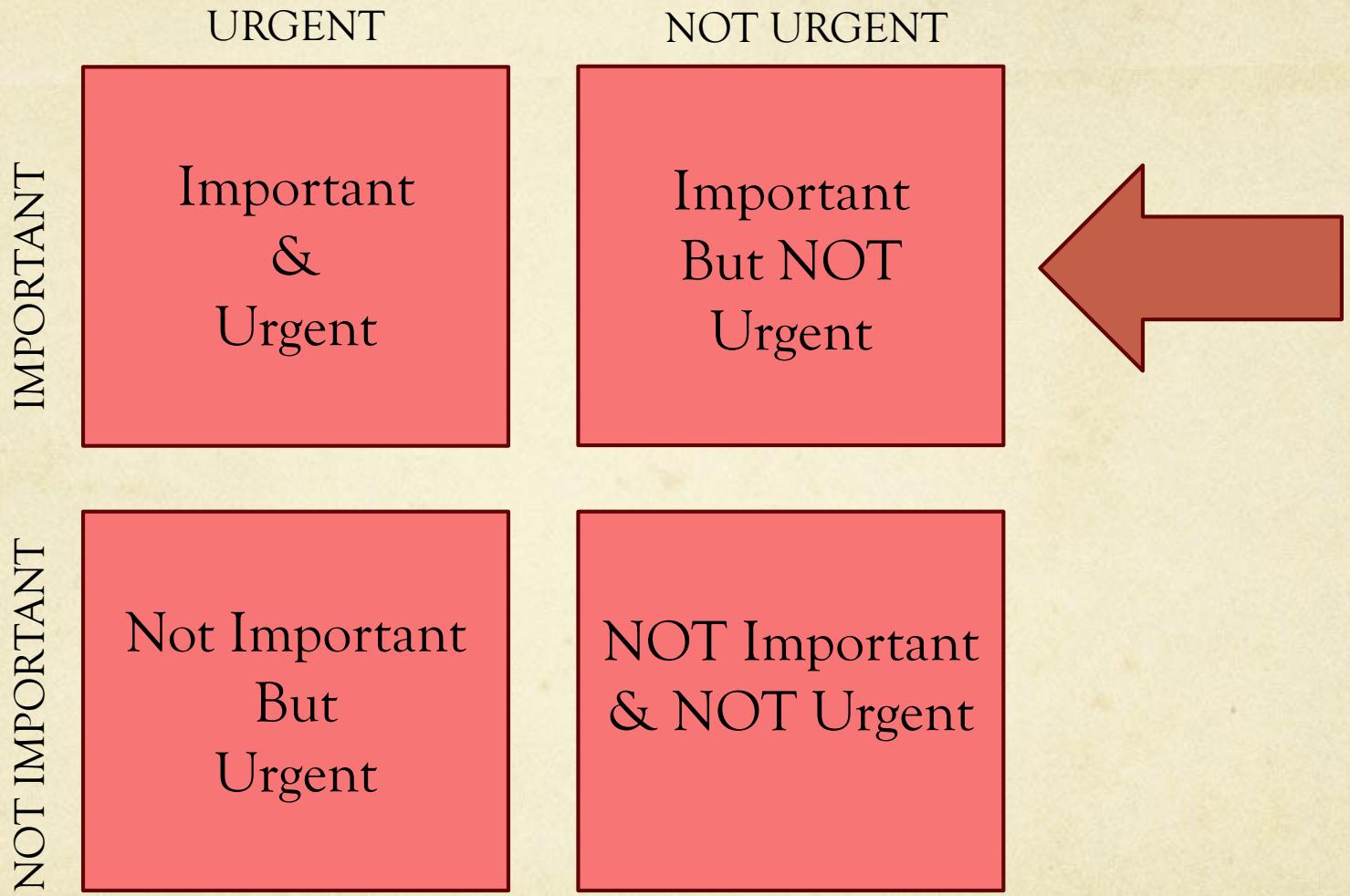
PRODUCTS

Our work is available in management reports, and in leading ecology and conservation journals, including *Proceedings of the National*

- Approach your work as **crafting a story**—even for scholars/scientists.

“A schedule is a mock-up of order – willed, faked, and so brought into being – it is a peace of a haven set into the wreck of time; it is a lifeboat on which you find yourself decades later, still living.”

– Annie Dillard, *The Writing Life*



Keep Climbing



Low-hanging Fruit & Push Tasks



SMART GOALS

- **S – Specific**, or significant, stretching, stimulating, simple, self-owned, strategic, sensible
- **M – Measurable**, or meaningful, motivating, manageable, maintainable...
- **A – Achievable**, or attainable, action-oriented, appropriate, agreed, assignable, ambitious, accepted, audacious...
- **R – Relevant**, realistic, rewarding, results-oriented, resourced, recorded, reviewable, robust...
- **T – Time-based** or time-bound, time-lined, track-able...
- **S.M.A.R.T.E.R.** Goals are also popular today.
 - **E - Evaluate**
 - **R - Re-evaluate, reward, reassess**

CHUNK SIZE

- GOAL: Write Quals Proposal (Ahhhh!)
 - Literature Review (Ahhh!)
 - Methods Section (Ahhh!)

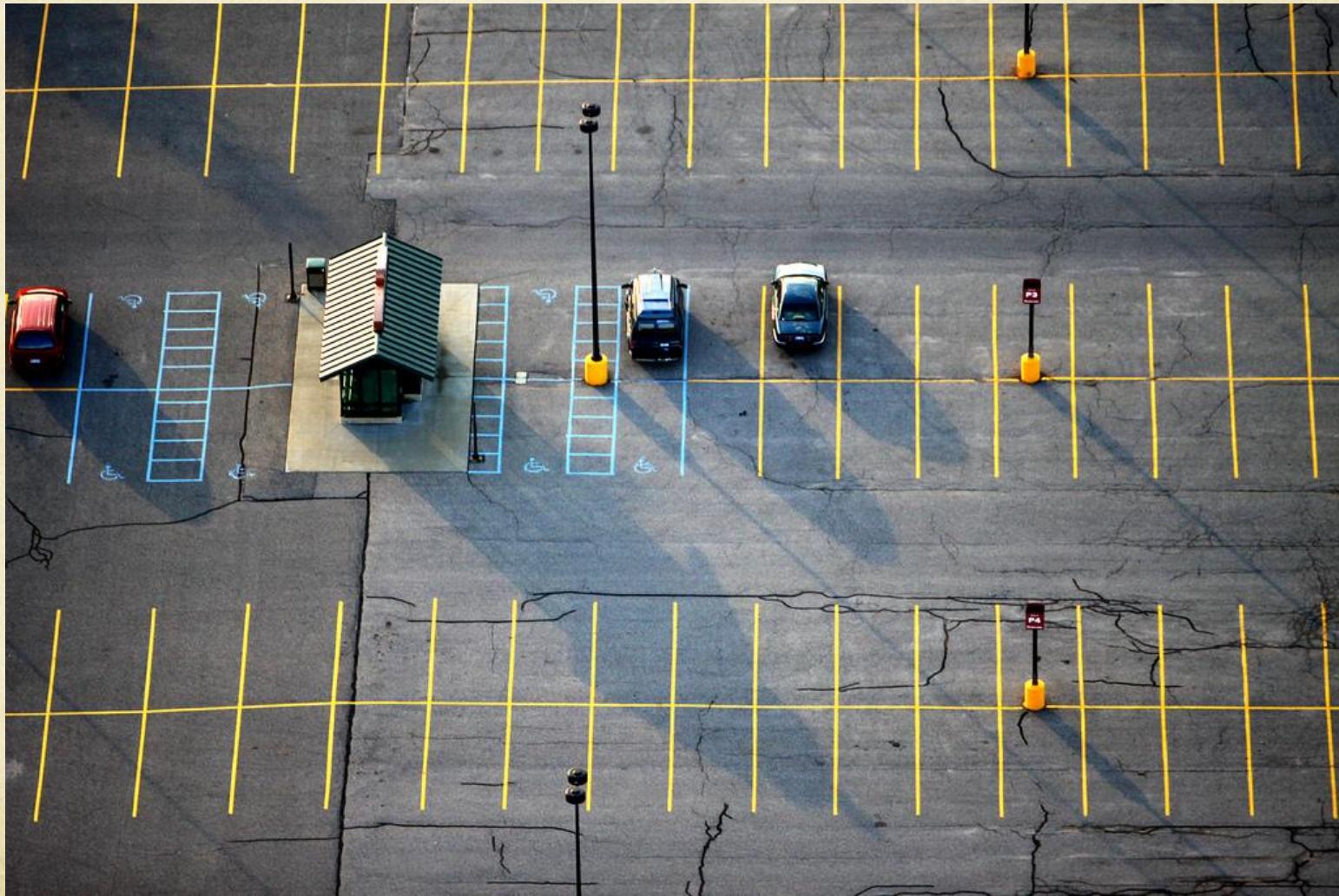
The Shitty First Draft

“Now, practically even better news than that of short assignments is the idea of shitty first drafts. All good writers write them. This is how they end up with good second drafts and terrific third drafts...

Very few writers really know what they are doing until they've done it.”

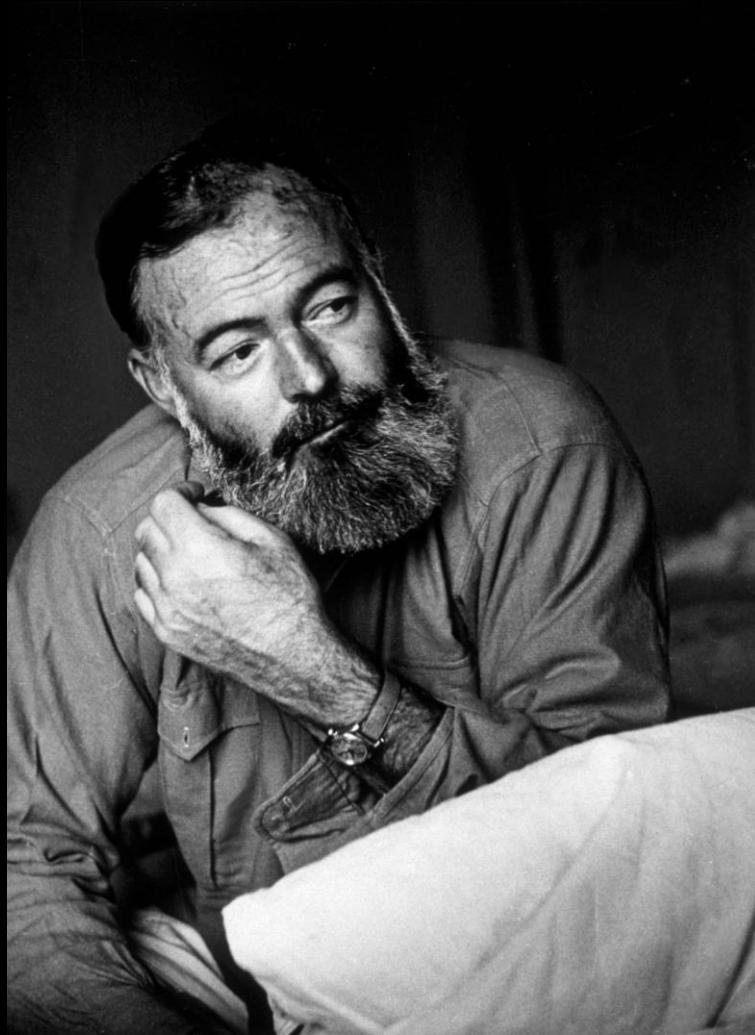
— Anne Lamont, *Bird by Bird*

Manage the Parking Lot



Seek Feedback

- Talk about it; Don't JUST write.
- Share sections with colleagues.
- Begin developing your writing support network now.
 - Exchange work
 - Fuel each other
 - Create deadlines and goals
 - Hold each other accountability



“It's none of their business that you have to learn to write. Let them think you were born that way.”

– Ernest Hemingway

Some Helpful Resources

- Belcher, W. L. (2009). *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*. Sage.
- Bolker, J. (1998). *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day: A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis*. Macmillan.
- Hayden, T. and M. Nijhuis, eds. (2013). *The Science Writers' Handbook*. SciLance Writing Group, LLC. (Excerpts in Coursework)
- Huff, A. S. (1999). *Writing for Scholarly Publication*. Sage. (Excerpts in Coursework)
- Obenzinger, H. (2015) *How We Write: The Varieties of the Writing Experience*. Hilton Obenzinger. (Excerpts in Coursework)
- Lamott, A. (1994). *Bird by Bird*. Pantheon.
- Goldberg, N. (2005). *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*. Shambhala Publications.
- “The Writing Life”, an online series in *The New Yorker*