

# Checkpoint 1: Topic selection

Due Monday September 23 at Noon

To help you understand the structure and purpose of a *Nature News & Views*-style article and begin selecting potential papers for your final analysis, which will be presented in this format.

## Tasks

Part 1: Read and Analyze a *Nature News & Views* Paper

1. **Read the Sample:** I've provided a sample *Nature News & Views* paper [here](#). This type of article communicates the significance and context of a research paper to a broader audience, highlighting its key findings and implications.
2. **Analyze the Structure:** As you read, think about these questions:
  - What is the **main goal** of a *News & Views* article?
  - How does the author **introduce** the topic and summarize the research?
  - What aspects of the research are emphasized, and how are they connected to **broader implications**?
  - How does the author **simplify** the complex ideas for non-experts while still maintaining depth and insight?
  - What is the overall **structure** (e.g., introduction, summary of findings, broader context, conclusion)?
3. **Write a Short Reflection:** After reading the sample article, write a brief (250-300 word) reflection on what you learned about the structure and purpose of a *Nature News & Views* article. Focus on how the author balances accessibility with depth, and how they present the research to a general audience.

Part 2: Paper Selection

Now that you have a better understanding of how research is communicated in a *News & Views* format, it's time to begin considering papers for your final project.

1. **Select Three Papers:** Identify three academic papers, articles, or research papers that you might want to analyze and write about in your final *News & Views*-style assignment.
2. **Provide Brief Notes on Each:**
  - **Summary:** Write a brief 2-3 sentence summary of the paper's main argument or findings.
  - **Pros:** Why are you interested in this paper? Does it align well with the course themes, provide strong evidence, or offer an interesting perspective?
  - **Cons:** What are some potential challenges with using this paper? Is there limited data, narrow scope, or another reason it might be less suitable?

### **Submission and Evaluation**

Submit a PDF that includes: 1. Your reflection on the *Nature News & Views* article. 2. Your three selected papers with notes on each (summary, pros, cons).

Evaluation Criteria: - **Reflection on Structure:** Does your reflection show a clear understanding of the *Nature News & Views* format? - **Paper Selection:** Have you thoughtfully considered the relevance and potential challenges of each selected paper?