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Composition II

Palmer

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Essay 3: Catchy Title Here (Scientists are SALTy they can’t find life on Mars yet hehe)

INTROOO: So, in different contexts people write differently. This is evident in this one news article reporting the awesomeness of this new study we found! This is what the first one says; this is what the second one says. They differ in these ways. Here we go

Peer-reviewed research papers in an academic context vastly differ from the short internet articles we, as members of a modern society, are familiar with. This is most evident in cases where the two genres interact. For example, <journal group, authors, whatever> recently wrote a peer-reviewed journal article detailing their efforts to understand whether salty areas on Mars are promising candidates for signs of exogeological life. This revelation, viewed as a large breakthrough in the way we view and search for life on Mars, has caught the attention of <news group>, who recently wrote a news article outlining the relevant parts of the journal article for their interested, yet less educated (in the niche), readers.

These two articles are written in vastly different styles, with differences ranging from the very blatant contrast in word choice to the subtle difference in sentence and paragraph lengths. Tone is also a major indicator of the almost mutually exclusive audiences the two articles target. This paper seeks to dissect these differences, and explain just why they exist. (<< move that sentence earlier??)

HERE WE GO THIS IS WHERE THE BODY STARTS: (every paragraph will look like >>>) This is one way they differ! No seriously, this is how they differ <evidence evidence textual evidence> This is why they’re doing that. Like, this is why the first one does what it does, and this is why the second one does it differently. (This is what it means for us??)

<paragraph about the word difference (the most obvious difference!!)>

<paragraph about the tone difference>

<paragraph about sentence length!! paragraph length!! mention the F-style of reading for internet articles?>

CONCLUSION TIME: As you can see, these papers differ in these ways. Why? Because of these reasons (short! short! if I did my job right, the reasons are outlined at the end of each body paragraph).

<journal author>’s article focuses on an audience that not only is grossly familiar with astronomical jargon, but also has developed the reading skills necessary to extract essential information from research papers without getting bogged down by the large paragraphs and verbose sentence structure. Conversely, <news place> is familiar with internet readers who tend to appreciate short, to-the-point articles outlining the most crucial details. This is, perhaps, why the news article had more of an excitable tone, hyping the modestly-reported results of the journal article into something that could catch the attention of a night-sky-fascinated, yet mathematically-bored group of readers.

But why does this matter to us, as people who peruse internet news articles much more frequently than research articles? Well, the answer lies in that very fact: we hardly ever need to read scholarly papers. Combine this truth with the fact that most scientific knowledge comes from researchers completing and writing about academically rigorous experiments, and we can easily see that without the news reporting on these important findings, we would be painfully uninformed. We also understand that the news articles are written in such a way that they keep our attention, as busy readers. This is why we need to understand *the ways in which* they keep our attention, and how these ways affect the truth value of the information reported to us, both in terms of the facts given to us and the things implied. <should probably insert examples that allude to the two articles I read but whoops maybe later>

Basically, the news bends the truth; we need to know the common tactics used when they do this so we can watch out for it. That’s Why It Matters™