Writing for academic journals

# Finding a topic

What is the problem and who else thinks it is a problem?

How did it become a problem?

Who else thinks it is a problem? Who doesn’t think it is a problem?

What has already been said by others?

Have you identified an area that has not been sufficiently explored?

# Finding an argument

What are the connections between your work and the work of others?

What are the distinctions between your work and theirs?

What propositions have been generated about your subject?

What new propositions have you generated?

How does your argument relate to current assumptions?

# Browns 8 questions (50 words on each)

1. Who are the intended readers?
2. What did you do?
3. Why did you do it?
4. What happened and when did you do it?
5. What do the results mean in theory?
6. What do the results mean in practice?
7. What is the key benefit for readers?
8. What remains unresolved?

# Shaping sections

* Make mini-arguments
* Including internal critique
* Anticipating refutation
* Writing the debate into your paper

# Use of verbs

The aim of this paper is to …[verb]

The paper analyses ……

It argues that …..

It also illustrates that ….

It goes on to argue …

Using X [method or model] the paper analyses …. to illustrate …..

The paper concludes by suggesting ….

Level 3 outlining

– insert a diagram here.

# Things to consider

* Do you have a forecasting paragraph at the start of your paper, saying what each section will do?
* Do you need to state how each section will develop your argument?
* Do you end each section with a sentence or two on how it progresses your argument?
* Do you start each section with a reminder of what it is going to do?
* Does your key term appear regularly throughout the paper? Have you used other terms for variation? If so, are they clear to the reader?
* Have you built the case that your research makes a contribution throughout your paper, not just at the end?
* Is there an exact match between the aim, at the start of your paper, and your claim at the end?
* Have you put link words at the start of the paragraphs and at the start of sentences if necessary? Is the logical flow obvious?