Arguments in Articles: Introductions to Journal Articles

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WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

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LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

1. Discourse/sentence
2. Rhetoric/whole unit of discourse (document)
3. Genre/context within a discipline
4. Larger social meanings/issues
Genetically-modified soybeans

1. Introduction
2. Materials and methods
   2.1 Samples
   2.2 DNA extraction
[continue from this point]
3. Results and discussion
4. Concluding remarks
5. Acknowledgements
6. References
What argument does the introduction present?

**Claim**
(this, We hypothesize that this, The objective of this paper is to show this)

**Link**
(because, causes)

**Reason**
(this)

**Evidence**
(Data, Statistics, Expert opinion, Visuals, Other studies, etc.)
Main claims in introductions

• “At the Olympics, sport psychology requires a set of extraordinarily broad skills because stuff happens, and it happens now . . . The sport psychologist needs to have strategies and skills for dealing with the immediate problem, the underlying cause, and potential future ramifications.”

S. McCann, “At the Olympics, Everything is a Performance Issue”
What argument does the introduction present?

Claim
• At the Olympics, sport psychology requires a set of extraordinarily broad skills

Link (because, causes)

Reason stuff happens, and it happens now

Evidence
The sport psychologist needs to have strategies and skills for dealing with the immediate problem, the underlying cause, and potential future ramifications
Your turn

• Read “Telling the Truth in Public Policy: An Analysis of New Zealand Sport Policy Discourse” and identify the main claim, the reason, and evidence to support the reason.
Telling the Truth

• “The current research builds on these themes by focusing on the rhetorical construction of public policy and its implications . . . Attempts were made by Sport and Recreation New Zealand (Sparc) to ‘transparently’ inform New Zealanders of a medal target policy for the New Zealand team at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.”
What argument does the introduction present?

**Claim**
- The current research builds on these themes

**Link** (because, causes)

**Reason**
the rhetorical construction of public policy and its implications

**Evidence**
Attempts were made by Sport and Recreation New Zealand (Sparc) to ‘transparently’ inform New Zealanders of a medal target policy for the New Zealand team at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne
Your turn

• Read “Matt waste from glass separated collection: An eco-sustainable addition for new building materials” and identify the main claim, the reason, and evidence to support the reason.
Matt waste from glass

• “The objective of this paper is to investigate a new application of matt waste in the construction industry by exploiting its activity as filler for self-compacting concrete and as partial Portland cement replacement (up to 50%) for newly blended concrete. The effects of MW are reported and discussed together with respect to the mechanical and microstructural characteristics of the newly formed composite materials.”

• “The incorporation of these materials into cements results in a blend with pozzolanic activity and consequently higher durability when compared to a Portland cement.”
What argument does the introduction present?

**Claim**
- investigate a new application of matt waste in the construction industry

**Link**
(because, causes)

**Reason**
its activity as filler for self-compacting concrete and as partial Portland cement replacement (up to 50%) for newly blended concrete

**Challenges**
(How, So what, Why?)

**Evidence**
the mechanical and microstructural characteristics of the newly formed composite materials
What argument does the introduction present?

**Claim**
- The incorporation of these materials into cements

**Link**
(because, causes)

**Reason**
a blend with pozzolanic activity

**Challenges**
(How, So what, Why?)

**Evidence**
higher durability when compared to a Portland cement
Your turn

• Read “Consumption of a Legume-Enriched, Low-Glycemic Index Diet” and identify the main claim, the reason, and evidence to support the reason.
Legume-Enriched, Low-Glycemic Index Diet

• “We hypothesized that the high-legume diet would reduce the rate of carbohydrate absorption, lowering the postprandial glycemic and insulineemic responses, leading to decreased C-peptide and other markers of insulin production.”
What argument does the introduction present?

**Claim**
- the high-legume diet would reduce the rate of carbohydrate absorption

**Link**
(because, causes)

**Reason**
- lowering the postprandial glycemic and insulinenic responses

**Challenges**
(How, So what, Why?)

**Evidence**
- decreased C-peptide and other markers of insulin production
Your turn

• Read “Metformin Compared with Glyburide in Gestational Diabetes” and identify the main claim, the reason, and evidence to support the reason.
Metformin Compared with Glyburide

• “We hypothesized that metformin and glyburide would show equivalent efficacy in controlling blood glucose in a head-to-head comparison. The goal of this study was to compare blood glucose levels in patients taking metformin to blood glucose levels in patients taking glyburide for management of gestational diabetes. The primary outcome was achievement of glycemic control defined as a fasting blood glucose of 105 mg/dL or less and a 2-hour postprandial blood glucose of 120mg/dL or less.”
What argument does the introduction present?

**Claim**
- metformin and glyburide would show equivalent efficacy in controlling blood glucose in a head-to-head comparison

**Link** (because, causes)
- compare blood glucose levels in patients taking metformin to blood glucose levels in patients taking glyburide for management of gestational diabetes

**Reason**
- achievement of glycemic control defined as a fasting blood glucose of 105 mg/dL or less and a 2-hour postprandial blood glucose of 120 mg/dL or less
First lines: Importance of topic

• “The Olympic games are different from other competitions in a number of ways, and nearly all of these differences are salient for the sport psychologist providing services at the Games.”
• “This article builds on the growing attention given to interpretive and critical policy analysis.”
• “The use of concrete and self-compacting concrete (SCC) as a tool for effective recycling has been actively researched for the last few years.”
• “Colorectal cancer is the 3rd leading cause of death among both genders in the US.”
• “Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) affects approximately 4% of all pregnancies.”
Introduction outline:
Telling the Truth

• Builds on previous studies
• Establishes common focus of previous studies
• Describes examples of previous studies (Bercovitz, Green)
• 2\textsuperscript{nd} Paragraph: New Zealand context (Sam)
• thesis
Your turn

• Pick one of the other introductions and outline the moves the author(s) make as they work their way toward their main claim.