TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE DEGGENDORF

Academic Writing

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Institut für Angewandte Informatik - IAI

Academic Writing

Lecture materials

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Assigment

Exercise 1. Edit your literature in Zotero and create notes in Zotero.

Time estimate: **25 min**

Exercise 2. Synthetize one of the articles based on your notes.

Time estimate: **25 min**

Paragraph Structure

Most paragraphs in an essay have **a three-part structure**.

- You can see this structure in paragraphs whether they are narrating, describing, comparing, contrasting, or analyzing information.
- **Introduction:** the first section of a paragraph; should include the topic sentence and any other sentences at the beginning of the paragraph that give background information or provide a transition.
- **Body:** follows the introduction; discusses the controlling idea, using facts, arguments, analysis, examples, and other information.
- **Conclusion:** the final section; summarizes the connections between the information discussed in the body of the paragraph and the paragraph's controlling idea.

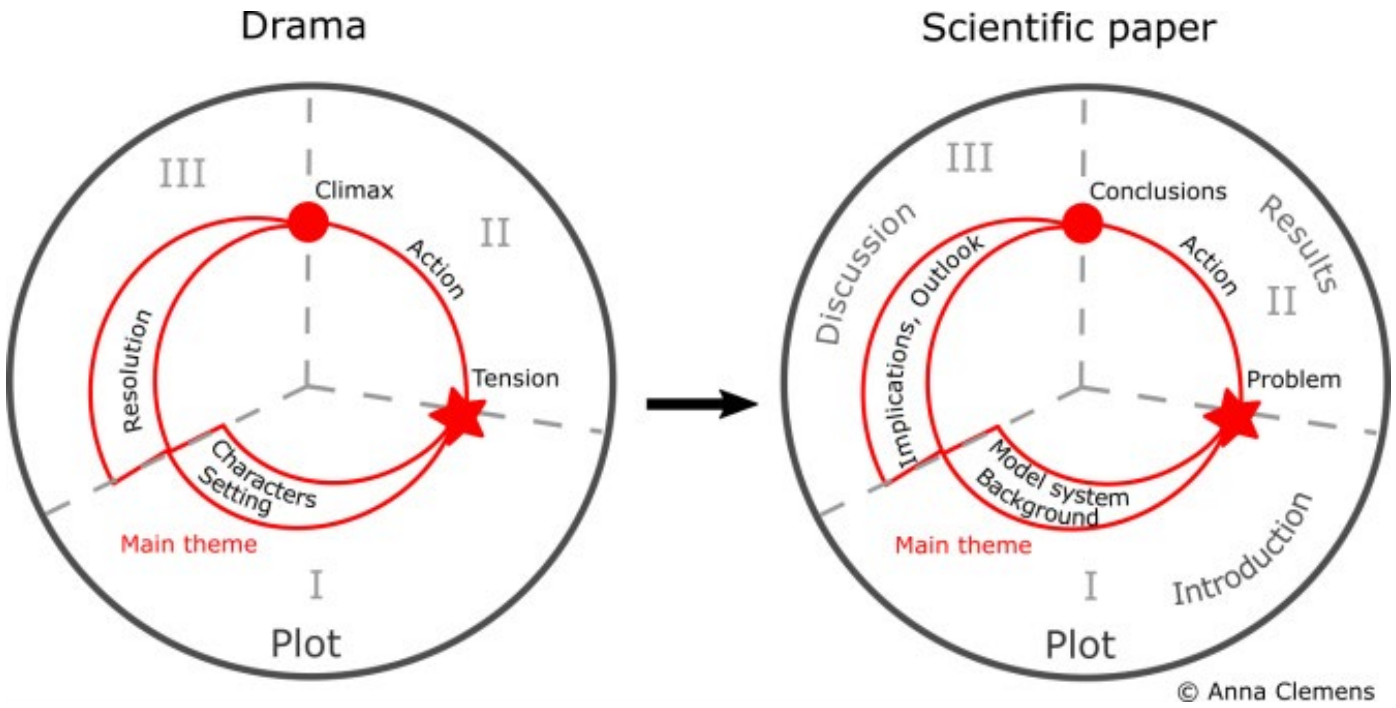
A topic sentence is a single controlling idea, which is expressed in a sentence called the topic sentence

Functions:

- it substantiates or supports an essay's thesis statement;
- it unifies the content of a paragraph and directs the order of the sentences;
- and it advises the reader of the subject to be discussed and how the paragraph will discuss it.

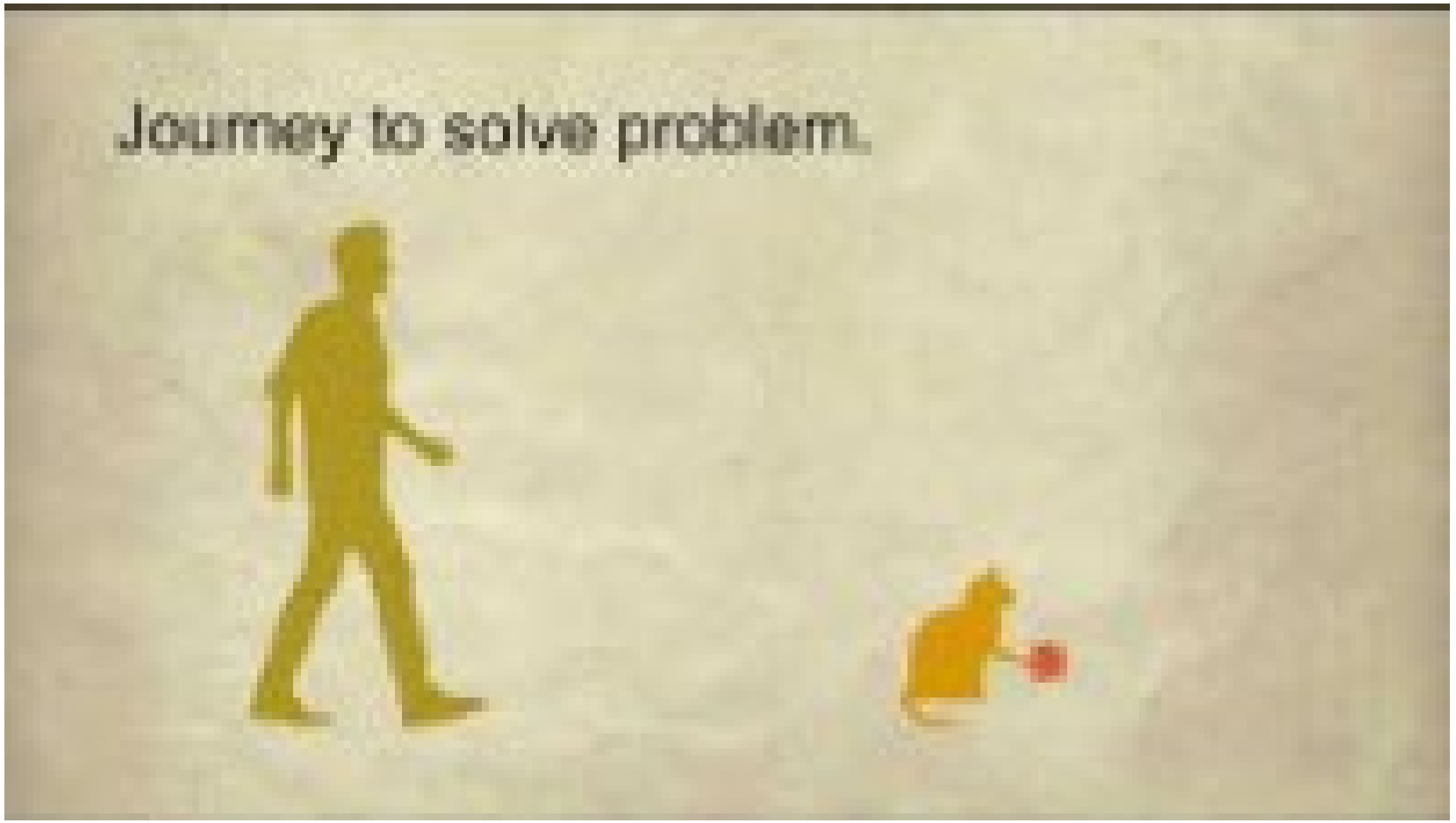
Narrating paragraph

Understand the piece as a history:



https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2018/05/21/writing-a-page-turner-how-to-tell-a-story-in-your-scientific-paper/

Historytelling



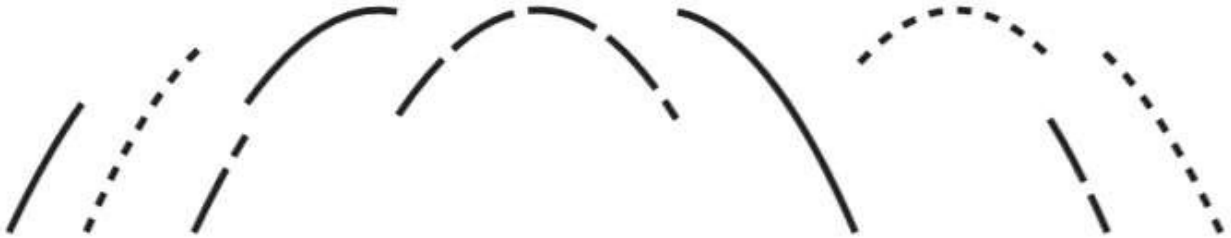
Historytelling: AND, BUT and THEREFORE

ABT	General purpose	Story	Scientific article
And	Known facts.	Introduce main characters.	Known facts in scientific literature.
But	Establish tension, conflict, or problem.	Problem that characters must solve. Journey to solve problem.	Knowledge gap (a problem) that must be solved. Methods.
Therefore	Solution to tension, conflict or problem. Ties all narrative strands together.	Problem solved. Characters return. Teaser.	Results. Solution to the knowledge gap or problem (conclusion). States future research.

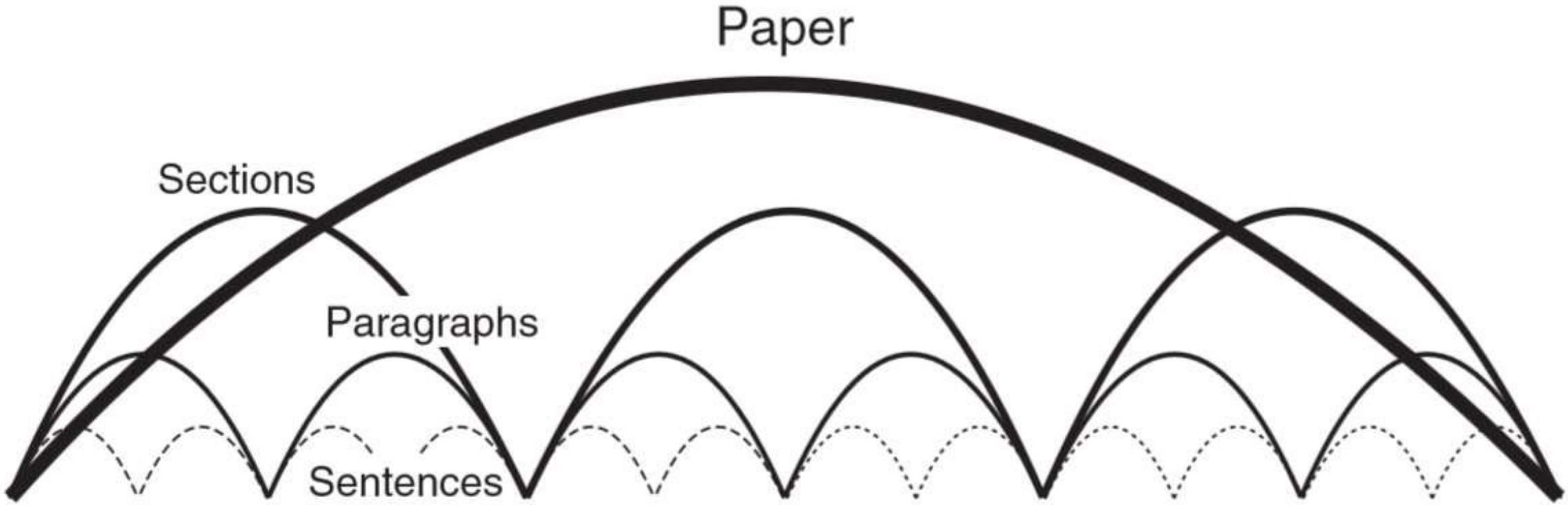
Ideas

Complete, linked arcs:

Incomplete arcs—ideas are discussed in multiple places:



Ideas



Reminder: Formal structure of a paper

General formal aspects:

- Balance
- Proportional shares
- Logic
- Do a clean job
- Pay attention to the format

Style aspects:

- Don't lose sight of history!
- Focus on what is difficult/has value
- Avoid including opinions and value judgments
- Be honest and humble