

Scientific writing

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1. What I will try to say

2: Saying it – 3: What did I say?

- The reader (peers, public, policy makers +?)
- The purpose (your piece in "the great puzzle", your pieces in your puzzle)
- Organization of the INTRODUCTION
- Preparation, lay-out and language
- Dissemination

The reader

- Peers (the scientific community in the field)
- Public
 - Publishable review paper, lectures

(The writer: **YOU**)

Global Health Action: www.globalhealthaction.net

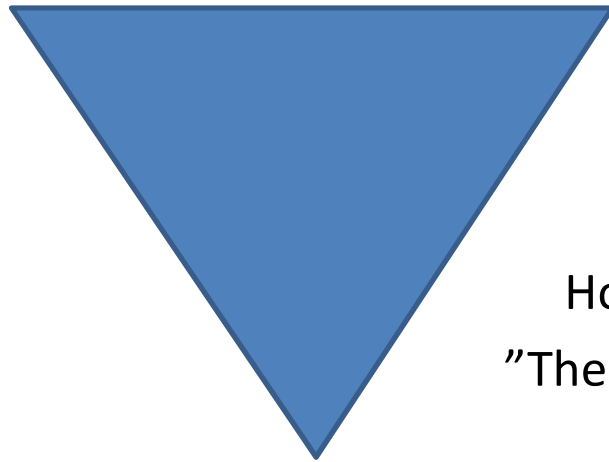
Policy makers

«Policy briefs»

The purpose

- The Great Puzzle
 - Global challenge -> status -> open questions ->
- Your Puzzle
 - Main objective -> specific objectives -> one conclusion

”The funnel method”



General (global)

Specific (relevance)

So far, open questions

How to answer (methods)

”The question” (objective)

A flowing text

- Titles, sub-titles and sub-sub-titles (1.2.3?)
- Sentences (short, complete, "and-but-also..")
- Paragraphs (key word, start and stop, "hooks")
- Step by step logical (problem - knowledge - puzzle/paradoxes – findings – conclusion)
- Positive -> negative -> hopeful (style!)
- "The trinity: Ole – Dole – Doffen" (text, tables, figures)

Text insertions in a flowing text

- Text boxes (shading / framing)
- Foot notes
- Figures (match with text)
- Method validations, global/national policy, history, stories / illustrations
- Two column text

3. The Alma Ata declaration. WHA 1979 gives priority to primary health care as the strategy for providing health services

Alma Ata Declaration (1979)
To provide all human beings with basic health services through a national primary health system

A scientific text I

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Material and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion

A scientific text II

- Define all important concepts
- Keep defined concepts constant ("significant")
- Abbreviations / acronyms (if > 3 times)
- All non-English in *italics* (e.g. Latin names)
- **Never** write 't, of course, surprise, disappoint..
- **Never** be witty, cynical, arrogant, humble..
- **Always** refer correctly to other authors' text
- **Never ever**, conclude beyond what your own data allows you!!!

The discussion

- Repeat the structure / sequence in the paper
- Discuss all major findings in relation to relevant findings in the literature (make new searches, search spec. the journal you submit to)
- Discuss relevance, validity and reliability of your own and other's findings
- "Destill" your main finding(s) (Consult your friends)

The conclusion



- The conclusion should be the answer(s) to your research question(s) (If not, modify!)
- Make sure you have basis for your conclusions in your (and other's, confirmed) findings
- If you indicate impact / recommendations, be modest and "mind your own business"
- Write the summary and revisit the title LAST!

Policy brief / Report

- Executive summary
- Adm. basis (ToR, team, time/site etc)
- Context / challenge
- Literature review (very short and popular)
- Methodology
- Findings
- Conclusion
- Recommendations (if in ToR)

Newspaper etc.

- Personal story
- From the individual to society / global
- The new knowledge (surprise, disappointment, hopeful, good/bad)
- The challenge

Good luck!

