



**GT4AFRICA** 

**Gender Transformation for Africa:** A Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health Research Collaborative

**Transformation du genre pour l'Afrique:** Une recherche concertée sur la santé sexuelle, reproductive et maternelle

Cohort Writing Meeting

9-13 September 2024

Sunsquare Hotel, Cape Town

The Gender Transformation for Africa (GT4Africa) cohort brings together seven implementation research projects (2022–2025) across Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Malawi, and South Africa. Supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the cohort addresses critical gaps in gender-transformative approaches to sexual, reproductive, and maternal health (SRMH).

As part of this effort, the cohort has hosted a series of interactive webinars to strengthen capacity and foster collaboration. These sessions facilitate cross-project learning and knowledge exchange. The slides are from one of these events.



GRADE Africa



NACOSA



African Population and Health Research Center



HOPE AFRICA



Canada

# What is your storyline?

Thinking about the key message(s) and structure of your journal article

# Storyline

- One of the most important ingredients of a great scientific paper (reader-friendly, engaging)
- Helps to tell a coherent story
- For example: A is a key health concern/problem/issue. Addressing B will help mitigate this. C is the current state of knowledge on how B may be effectively addressed, and D is a gap in our knowledge. Therefore, we carried out EFG research. We found X, and this is a salient finding because .....

# Exercise

- Take five minutes and write the storyline of your journal article.

The background features a dark teal gradient with several overlapping, wavy wireframe patterns in a lighter teal color. A prominent, glowing teal line flows across the middle of the image, following the curves of the wireframe shapes.

# Structuring your article

# Three ingredients of a successful story

01

Develops one main theme

02

Flows from one idea to another

03

Everything in the story has a purpose

# Structuring the story

The opening: introducing your topic

A challenge: The question you aim to answer

An action: How you went about finding the answer (Methods and materials)

The climax: What you found (Results)

A resolution: How your findings answer the question and advance the evidence base



The IMRaD structure:  
Introduction  
Methods and Materials  
Results  
Discussion/Conclusion

# Finding your story by writing backwards

Source: Montagnes et al.,  
(2022)

## 1. TAKE HOME MESSAGES

What conclusions arise from the data? What key questions do these conclusions answer?

## 2. RESULTS

Write up only those results that relate to your conclusions.

## 3. METHODS

Write-up only the Methods that relate to your results

## 4. DISCUSSION & INTRODUCTION

Write both sections together  
Focus on developing a final discussion  
Then move to finalise the introduction

# Exercise

- Remaining group work review your storyline by writing backwards.

# Sources referred and key resources

## REFERENCES

Aaltonen, A. (2018). Research paper as academic story-telling. <https://aleksiaaltonen.medium.com/research-paper-as-academic-storytelling-67153d65a380>

Kedia, G. (2023). Storytelling and the thread of scientific papers. <https://abrilliantmind.blog/storytelling-and-the-thread-of-scientific-paper/>

Montagnes, D.J.S., Montagnes, E.I. & Yang, Z. Finding your scientific story by writing backwards. Mar Life Sci Technol 4, 1–9 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42995-021-00120-z>

## USEFUL RESOURCES FOR HOW TO WRITE GOOD SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

Kedia, G. (2021). The ultimate guide to scientific writing. <https://abrilliantmind.blog/scientific-writing/>

Perneger T.V. and Hudelson, P.M. (2004). Writing a research article: advice to beginners. International Journal for Quality in Health Care 16(3), 191–192. <https://doi.org/10.1093/intqhc/mzh053>



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Thank you