

A dark blue background featuring a faint, stylized world map. The continents are outlined in a slightly lighter shade of blue, creating a subtle pattern across the entire slide.

Writing a Clear and Meaningful Introduction

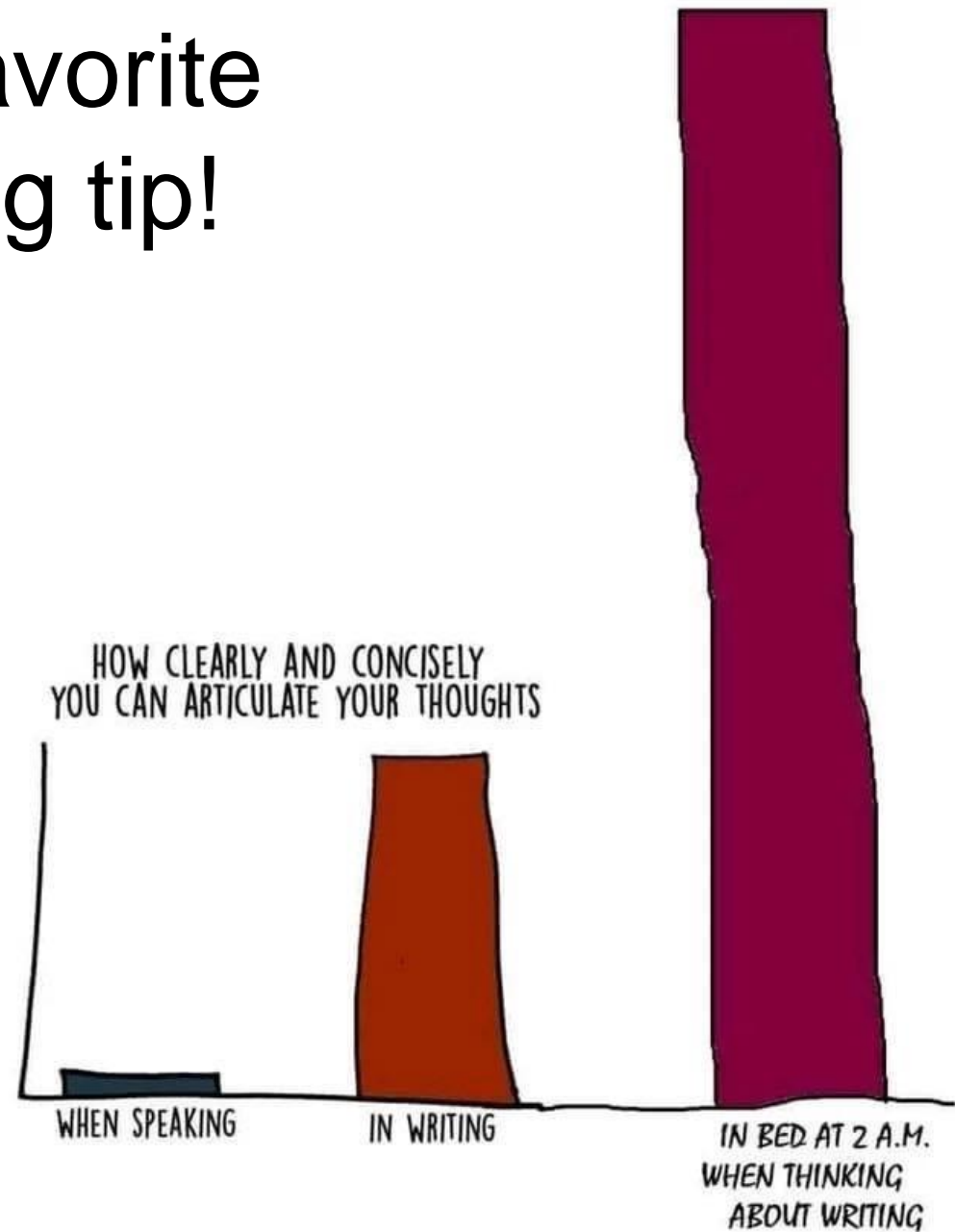
Dr. Amy Lyndon
Writing Workshop
Spring 2021

PH.D. IN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

1. Turn your head away from the computer!
2. Ask, "What is it I'm trying to say?"
3. Answer it as you would to a friend
4. Type in the answer as you speak.

INDIANA**TECH**

My favorite writing tip!



An introduction is ...

- A straightforward document
- Clearly organized
- Provides a clear map of where you're going
 - without relying on “First, I will talk about X, secondly, I will discuss Y ...”
- NOT a literary production
- NOT cluttered with extraneous and irrelevant material.

Consider your scientific writing like fiction writing

- Opening: What is the story about? Who are the characters? Where does it take place? What do you need to understand about the situation to follow the story? What is the larger problem you're addressing?
 - Background/Overview of the study: Why is this important? What are the important concepts/constructs (aka characters)? What background information about these concepts leads you to believe we need a story/study about them?
 - Problem Statement: What's the informational/story gap (aka research gap) that means your study/story is needed? What's the problem you're addressing?

INDIANA**TECH**

**PH.D. IN GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP**

Consider your scientific writing like fiction writing

- Challenge: What do your characters need to accomplish? What specific question(s) do you propose to answer?
 - Purpose statement: What do YOU need to accomplish? What's your plot/purpose of your study?
 - Research question: Does your research question accomplish your goal?

Consider your scientific writing like fiction writing

- Action: What happens to address the challenge?
 - Theoretical Framework: How does your theory or concept explain how your concepts/characters relate to one another (quant) or explain your process (qual)? What are the guiding principles of your “plot?”
 - Delimitations: What boundaries will you set for how your characters will act/study will have?
 - Limitations: What weaknesses will your characters/study have? How will that affect your plot/conclusions?

INDIANA **TECH**

**PH.D. IN GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP**



Develop your rationale

- Based on your drafts, list the reasons
 1. Why this study is important? (Opening)
 2. What do you hope your concepts will accomplish? (Character)
 3. How your theory or action will explain or structure the problem? (Action)

PH.D. IN GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP



INDIANA**TECH**

Develop your purpose statement

- For 5 minutes, write as many variations as possible of your answer to, “What is the purpose of this proposal/study?”
 - It can’t be to summarize or describe research or a concept.
 - You would *answer* a) question, b) *test* a hypothesis, c) *compare* findings across studies, d) *argue* for a better solution, e) *examine* or *explore* a problem in depth, etc.
- Spend the next 5 minutes editing to find the best one.

Concise sentence wording

1. While proposing these sample dimensions to study followership, Uhl-Bien et al. (2014) cautioned that in the selection of these dimensions, a key consideration must be whether a chosen dimension fits in the followership domain.
2. Uhl-Bien et al. (2014) also cautioned that a key consideration must be whether a chosen dimension fits in followership domain.



Concise writing

- For 5 minutes, read a paragraph in your document and highlight these things
 - Was/were/being/going to (to be)
 - That, this, those
 - According to
 - Specifically
 - Pairs of synonyms (perceive and judge, attitudes and beliefs)
 - Sentences with many commas
 - Quotes



Goodson (2017), Exercise 36 – Check it

- Take the Checklist for Introductions handout and read through your (proto)introduction.
- Identify areas that can either be
 - Ones you feel good about
 - Ones you feel may be missing or need improvement

Active vs. Passive Voice



Shit Academics Say
@AcademicsSay



Active voice: I love your writing

Passive voice: Your writing is loved

Passive-aggressive voice: I love how you think you can accomplish all your writing goals this summer

Aggressive-aggressive voice: How's your writing going so far this summer

5:23 PM · Jun 17, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

4,516 Retweets 386 Quote Tweets 14.1K Likes



PhD Writing Editor Program

- <https://phd.indianatech.edu/writing-editor-program/>
- Writing editor will review a paper and note problems and inconsistencies, (b) sentence structure and clarity, (c) review grammar, spelling, APA format, and (d) more.
- \$35/hour, paid for by student directly to the editor
- Editors are faculty members in the program
- Reach out through the webportal when you are ready for review