

# Storytelling in the Introduction section of Research Paper

# Research Paper as Narrative

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# Brain-Activating Narrative

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# Introduction: Opening Narrative

Cognition

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“People have long been fascinated with the idea of creating humans. In ancient Jewish mythology, a rabbi creates a Golem—an animated creature of clay and string—to protect the townspeople (Rosenberg, 2008). In Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (2004), the good doctor takes cadaver parts and, with the help of high voltage current, creates a living being. More recently, books and movies have imagined a time when computers and robots will be fully human—our friends and enemies, our lovers and therapists. Despite the diversity in these imaginings of things made human, there is a commonality underlying many of them, an undercurrent of apprehension or unease—the uncanniness of the inanimate made living (Kang, 2011).”

Gray, K. & Wegner, D. (2012). “Feeling robots and human zombies: Mind perception and the uncanny valley.” *Cognition*.

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# Introduction: Opening Narrative

*World Psychiatry*

12

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# Introduction: Opening Narrative

*Chemical Science*

17

“Fatigue and wear are some of the most inevitable, yet undesirable fates of a material. A deviation from this common axiom was introduced by self-healing materials that are capable of autonomously recovering from damage. [1] The self-healing effect has been extensively explored in mesophasic materials and many self-healing polymers have been developed that use encapsulation, [2,3] metal–ligand interactions, [4,5] hydrogen bonding, [6,7] dynamic covalent chemistry, [8] pericyclic reactions, [9,10] and other covalent and supramolecular strategies. [11]”

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Commins et al. (2020). Efficiently self-healing boronic ester crystals. *Chemical Science*.

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*IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES, 2016*

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“The next generation of wireless communications will use systems operating from 500 MHz to 100 GHz [1], [2]. Today’s cellular systems use ultrahigh frequency (UHF) and Microwave bands exploiting multi-user multiple-input multiple-output (MU-MIMO) [3], [4], coordinated multipoint systems [5]–[7], heterogeneous networks [3], [7], and carrier aggregation [8]. However, the incredible demand for broadband wireless mobility will be supplied by moving up to the millimeter-wave (mmWave) spectrum, where a massive amount of raw bandwidth exists [9], [10], and therefore, the design of 5G cellular networks requires channel models that characterize the sub-6 GHz and mmWave spectrum to perform multi-band system-level simulations.”

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# Storytelling in Academic Writing

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# Correspondence with Prof. Herbert Waite

dated April 15, 2016

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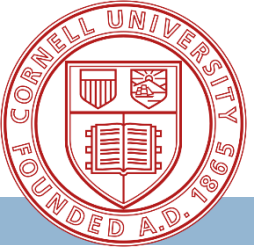
# Correspondence with Prof. Herbert Waite

grant application

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# The PhD Program in Cornell University



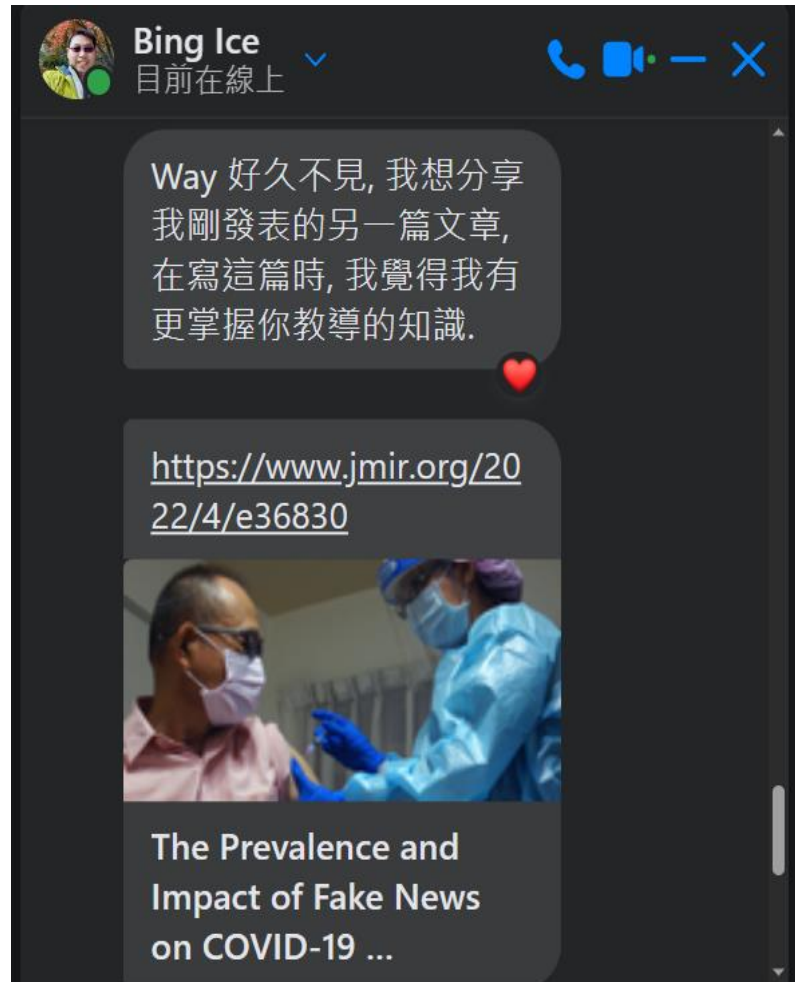
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- ◆ **Dissertation to go through two tests**
  - The Grant Proposal
  - The Oral Defense

# Time to Tell your Research Story!

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To take the blue pill or the red pill: decisions are made every day in our lives. As expressed in the 1999 film *The Matrix*, “You take the blue pill—the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill—you stay in Wonderland, and I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes” [1]. Every decision may have critical or trivial effects on our future and may be influenced by our environment. Decisions about whether to accept or reject vaccination can be influenced by a variety of factors [2-6] including personal lifestyle, disease severity, vaccine effectiveness, side effects, peer decisions, and internet information. The internet has brought everyone together over the last decades, and misinformation on the internet can spread like a plague and affect public positions [7-13], even encouraging individuals to make potentially self-harming health decisions [14,15].

# Task II in class next week (5/12)

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- I. Introduction Move Analysis (p. 331)
- II. Establishing a Niche (p. 348)

# Establishing a Niche (p. 348)

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## Move 2: Establishing a Niche

In many ways, Move 2 is the key move in Introductions to longer research papers. (However, this move may not be needed in shorter communications.) It is the hinge that connects Move 1 (what has been done) to Move 3 (what the present research is about). Move 2 thus establishes the motivation for the study. By the end of Move 2, the reader should have a good idea of what is coming in Move 3.

Most Move 2s establish a niche by indicating a gap—by showing that the research story so far is not yet complete. Move 2s then function as a *mini-critique* (see Unit Six). Usually Move 2s are quite short, often consisting of no more than a sentence or two. Let us examine the Move 2s in the first three Introductions we have seen so far.

*Thomas Eakins*

Apart from a chapter in Foster (1997), this series *has been little discussed by critics or art historians*. For example, these pictures *were ignored by Johns* in her . . . .

*Durability Monitoring* (bridges)

The widespread deterioration and recent collapses of highway bridges . . . *have highlighted the importance of developing effective bridge inspection and maintenance strategies*.

*University-Community Agency Collaboration*

Little is, however, known about participants' views of university-community collaborations.

As you can see, the first and third are straightforward gap indications. The second is rather more subtle. It implies, but does not directly state, that current bridge inspection strategies need to be improved.

A fuller range of options for Move 2 is presented in Figure 17.

FIGURE 17. Options for Establishing a Niche



# Establishing a Niche (p. 348)

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A. counter-claiming (something is wrong)	Stronger
B. indicating a gap (something is missing)	
C. raising a question or making an inference (something is unclear) (Kwan and Chan, 2011)	↓
D. continuing a tradition (adding something)	Weaker

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# Q & A



# Introduction: Opening Narrative

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*The International Journal of Medical Robotics*

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*The International Journal of Medical Robotics*

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Prior to World War II, soldiers sustaining serious injuries in the field of battle would have little chance of survival, as they would have to be transported rearward from the front lines for significant distances in order to reach adequate medical care. The rise of mobile army surgical hospitals (MASH), later superseded by US military combat support hospitals (CASH), attempted to address timely delivery of critical care to the wounded soldier in the combat arena. However, as exemplified by events of World War II, in which medics were deemed primary targets by enemy combatants, . . .

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. . . pushing the delivery of medical care closer to the frontlines significantly increases personal risk to medical personnel. In an effort to mitigate this risk, groups such as the US military began research into the area of remote surgery (telesurgery), which would not only limit the exposure of medical personnel to the dangers of armed combat, but would also allow the delivery of specialized care, such as neurosurgery, to the head-wounded soldier in a remote location. These concepts represent the impetus for development of telesurgey as a research area.

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*The International Journal of Medical Robotics*

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