

Writing for publications

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Post analysis review meeting

- Presentation of study report by study teams
- Choosing/listing of titles- Authors (Lead and Co-authors)
- Agree on timeline for zero draft presentation of manuscript (For internal review)
- Circulation of study reports after the review meeting
- Need for further analysis??

Going Public

1. **You must have something to say - a message**
2. What you want to say should be of interest to those you are trying to communicate the message to
3. Different ways of scientific communication
 - Study Reports
 - Posters
 - Presentation at a conference
 - Non-peer reviewed or local journals
 - **International peer-reviewed journals**
 - Policy Briefs
 - Blog
 - Newsletters

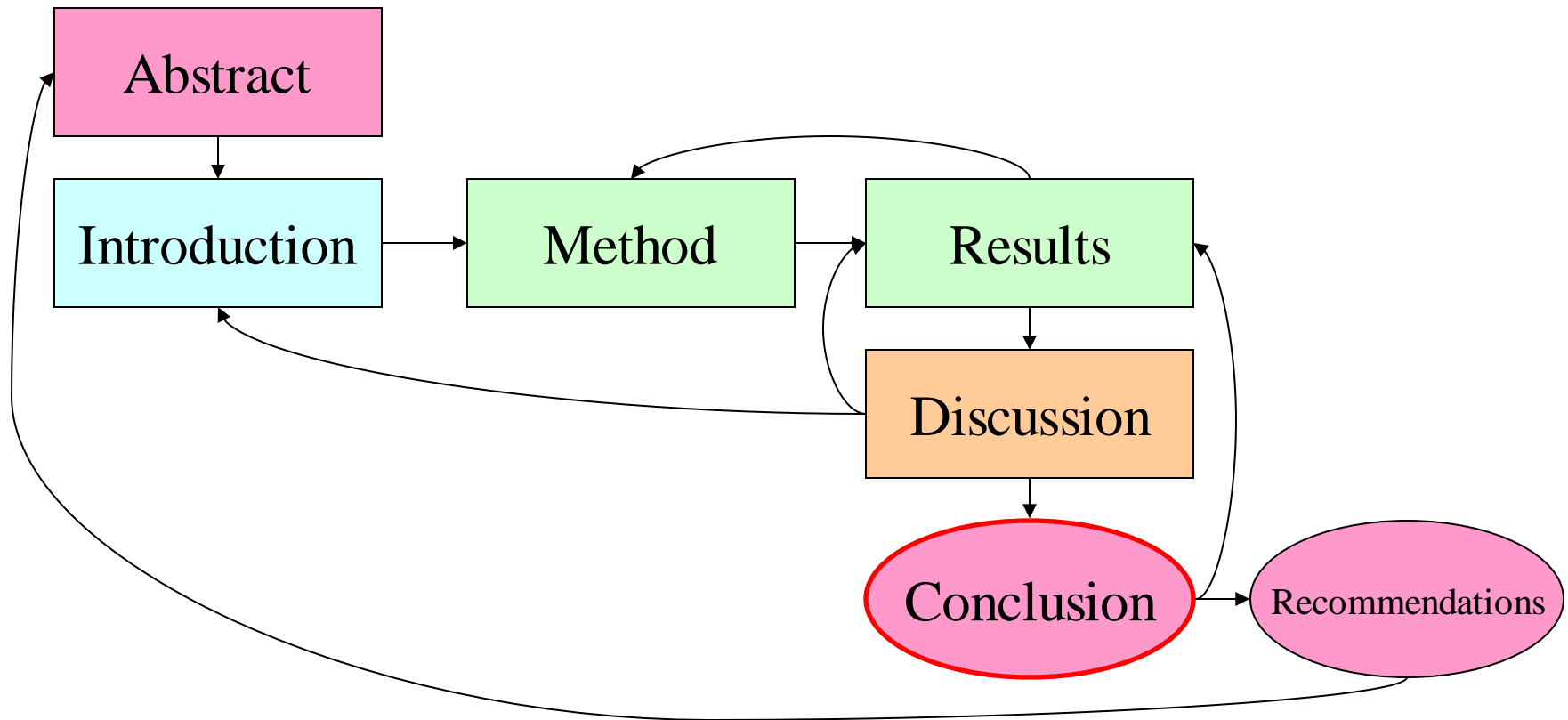
Writing for a Journal

Linear Analytical Model

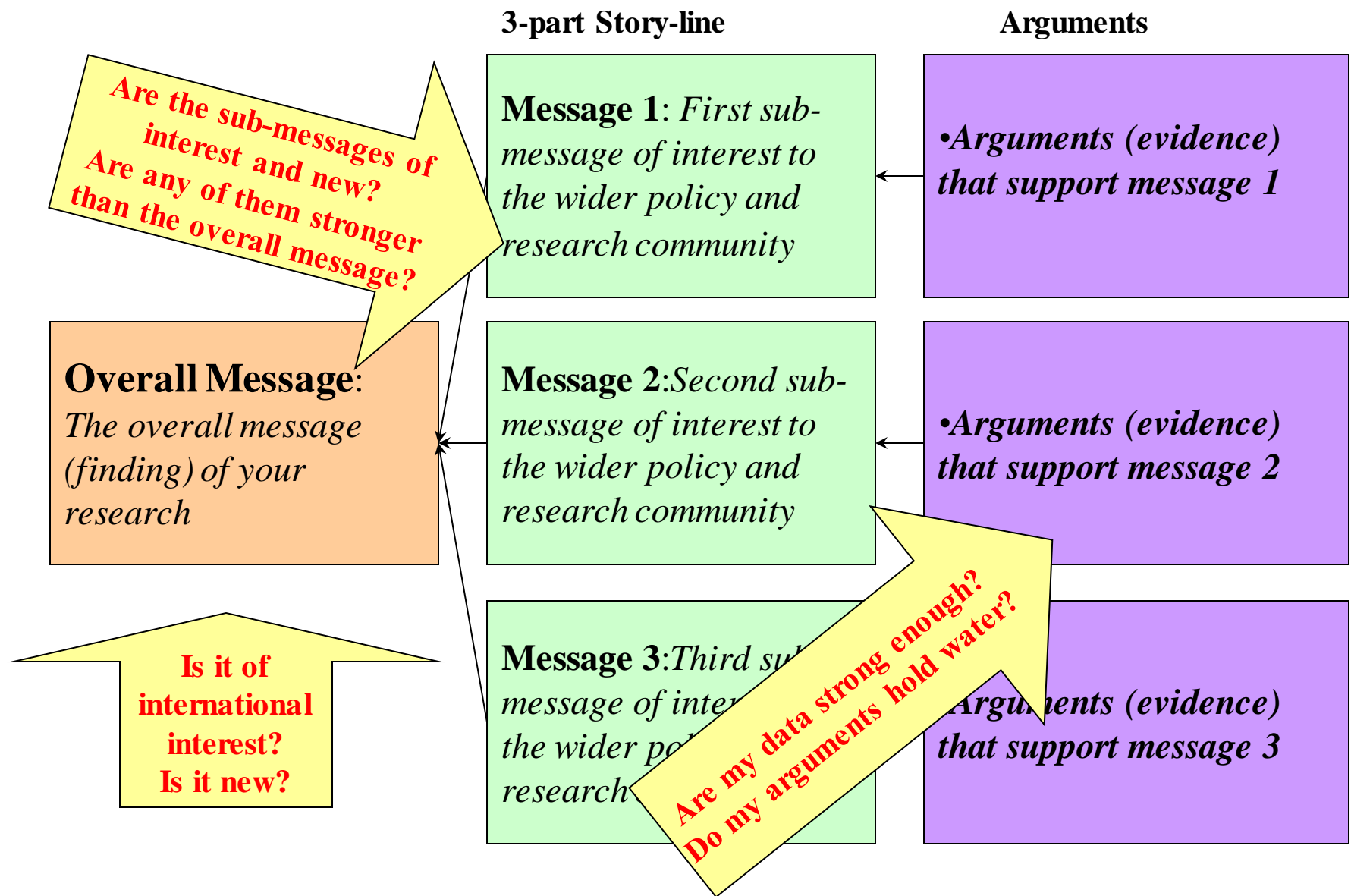
Quantitative	Qualitative
Abstract	Abstract
Introduction	Introduction
Method	Method
Results: Data + Analysis	Descriptive account + Analysis
Discussion Conclusion	Summary Implications

A linear analytical article is not written through a linear process

Writing an article assumes that you have already done your analysis and reached your conclusion; therefore:



Building an argument tree - Manuscript Outline

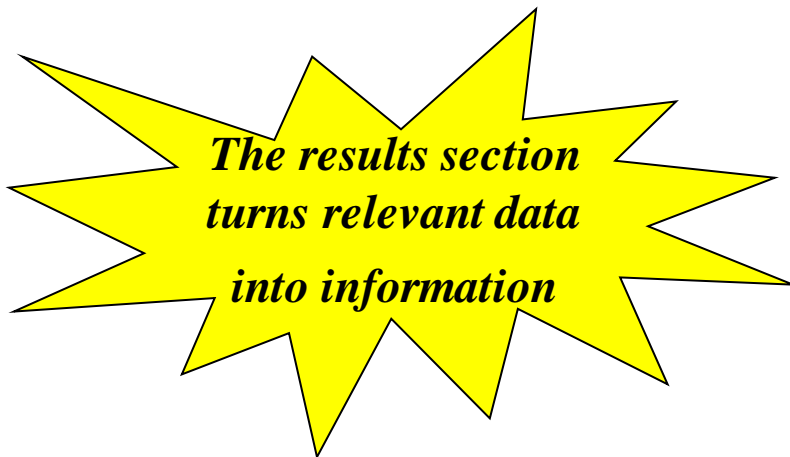


The results section

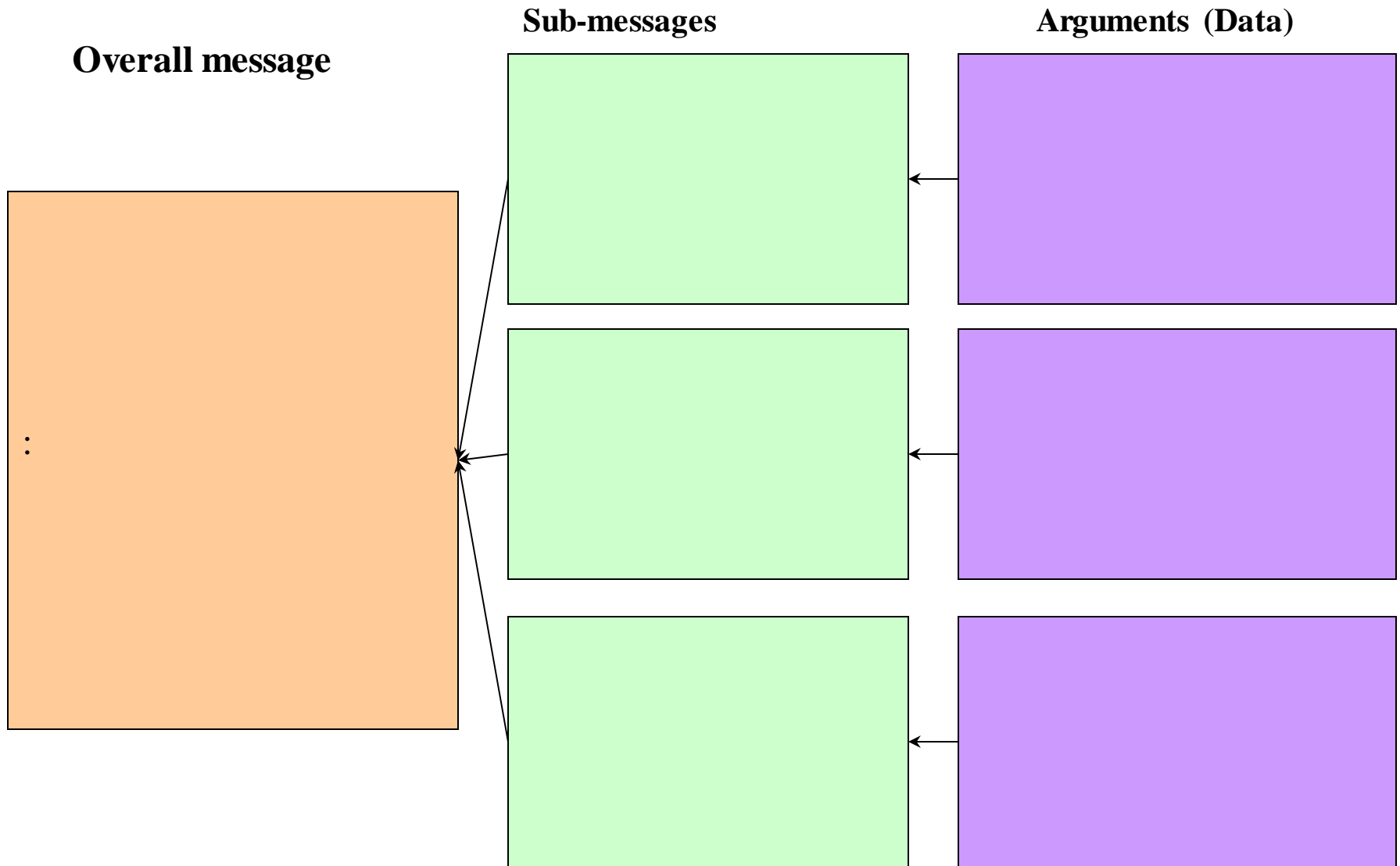
Purpose: *Provide the reader with sufficient information to allow him or her to come to the same conclusion as you have -to verify your conclusion*

- What to have in the results section
 - Data from your study
 - Description of the data
 - Analysis of the data

- What not to have in a results section
 - Background information
 - Discussion, interpretation, personal views
 - Conclusions
 - Recommendations
 - Data/results that are not used in the discussion section
 - [References]



Building an argument tree - Manuscript Outline



Final piece of advice

- The simpler the better,
- Don't use overly complicated statistical methods,
- we are writing for a policy audience

Writing the Methods Section

The methods section

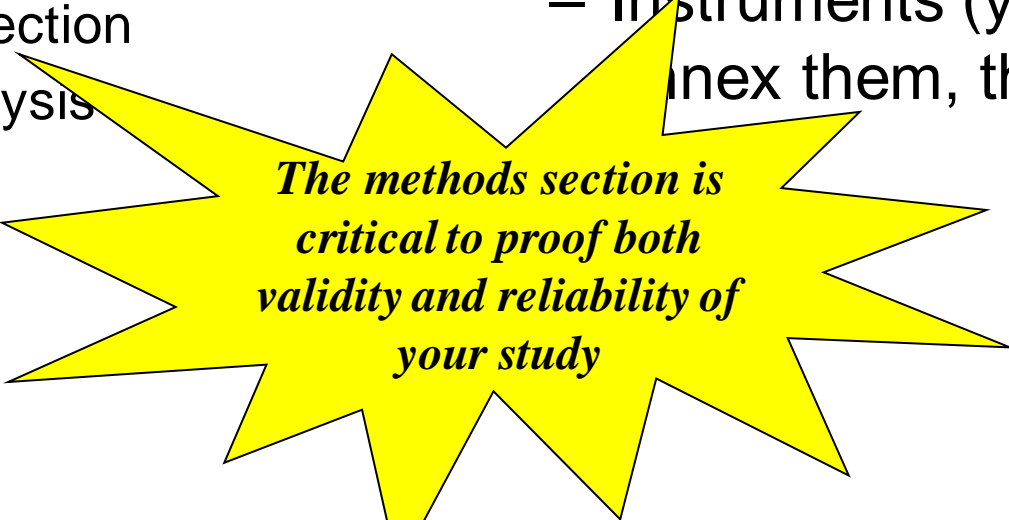
Purpose: *Describe, in logical sequence, how your study was designed and carried out and how you analysed your data*

- What to have in the methods section

- Study area
- Design
- Subjects
- Sampling methods and sample size calculation
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis

- What not to have in a methods section

- Background and introductory information
- Discussion of validity and reliability
- Instruments (you may annex them, though...)

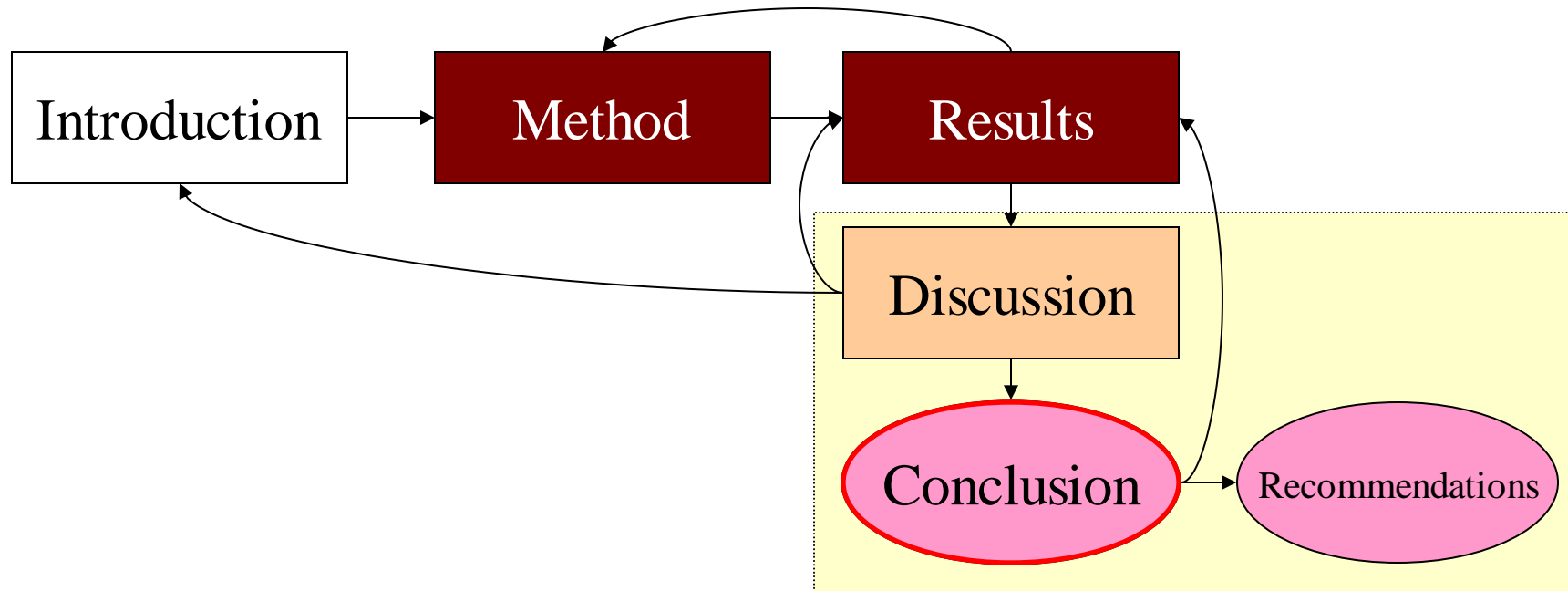


The methods section is critical to proof both validity and reliability of your study

*Writing the discussion and
conclusion section*

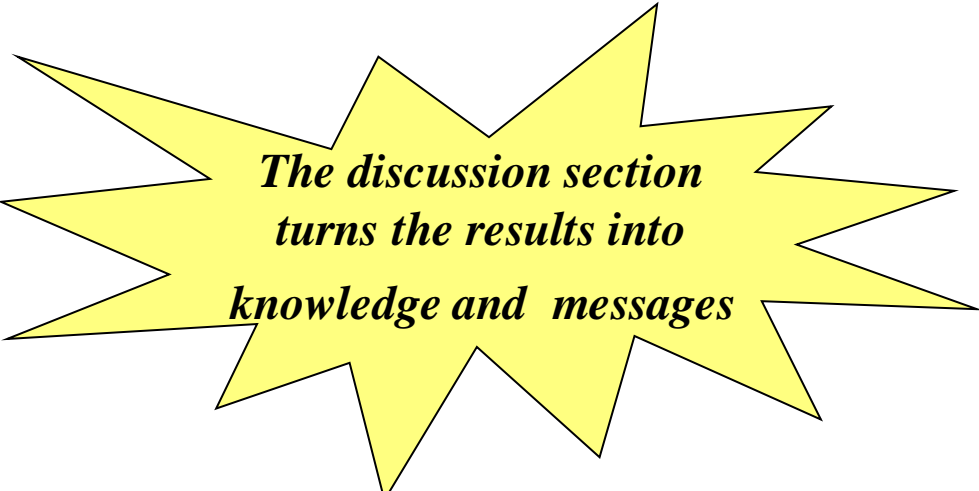
The discussion section is part of the iterative writing process

Your interpretation of the results should depend on how successfully you can convince yourself that alternative interpretations are less valid. Sharing this thought process with the readers should constitute a large part of the discussion



The discussion section

Purpose: *Provide the reader with an interpretation of your results and what they might mean. The discussion section is a reasoning towards a conclusion based on the results and the background sections.*



*The discussion section
turns the results into
knowledge and messages*

- What not to have in a discussion section
 - New data or new results
 - Repetitions of the results
 - Views and conclusions that are not grounded in the results and background sections
 - Tables, figures, and [many] numbers
 - Criticism of other researchers

The discussion section: Sequence

Begin the discussion by summarizing briefly the main findings, then you interpret the most important results, including any unexpected findings; what do these results mean?

Compare the results with other studies done on the topic. Make sure you provide sufficient information on these studies (e.g. when conducted? where? study design? who participated? number?) so that the reader can judge whether these studies are similar to yours.

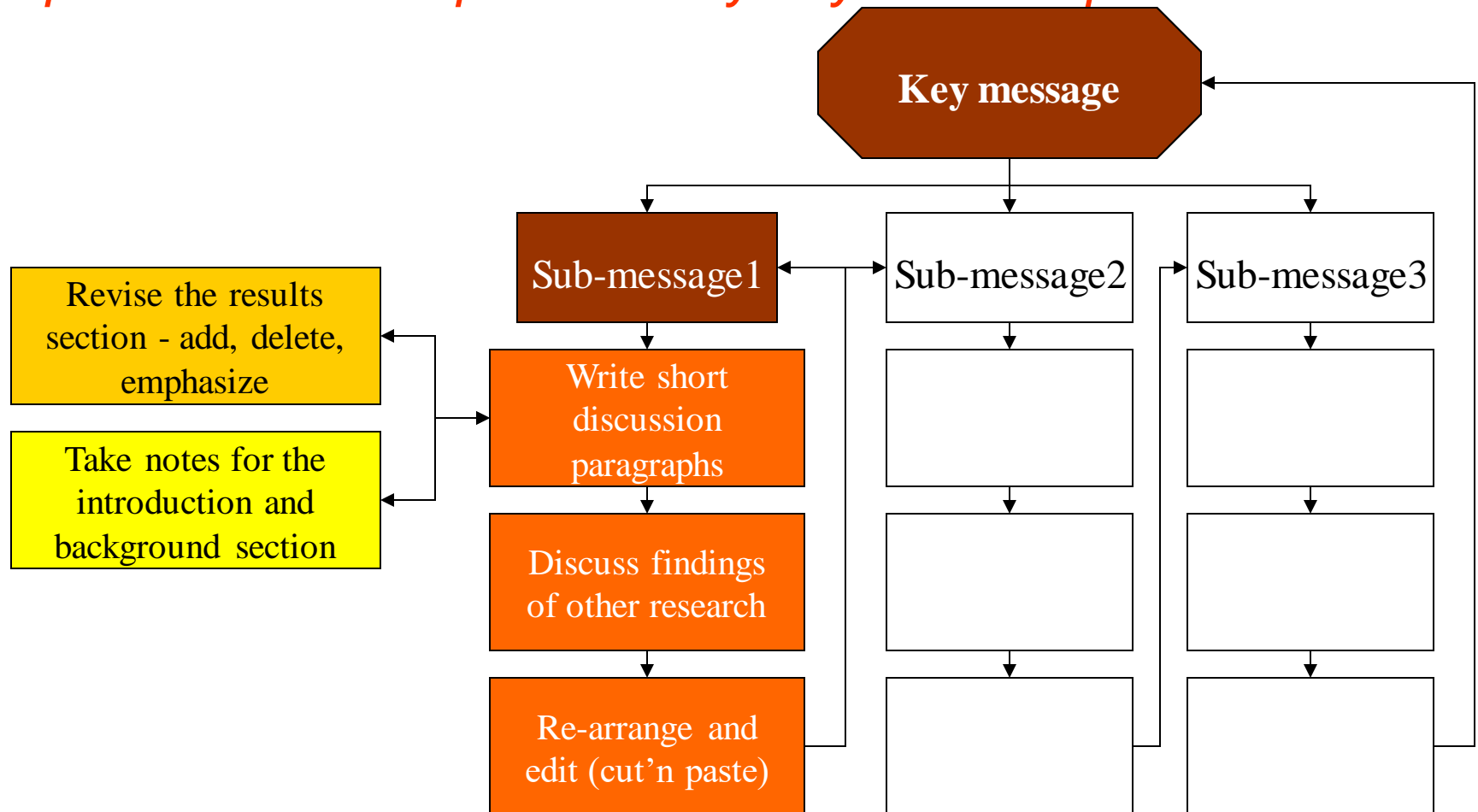
Highlight the limitations of your study, and possible consequences thereof. But also don't forget to mention the strengths of your study.

End with a paragraph on what the implications of your results are and what the way forward is for research, practice and policy. You often end with one concluding sentence (In conclusion, ...).

Note that you must not present any new results here (these should go into the Results section). And contrary to the introduction, you go in this section from specific (your study) to general (practice, policy, future research).

Putting it all together

Don't attempt to write the discussion from 'start-to-end', begin with a structure reflecting your end-message and exploit the cut-and-paste facility of your word processor



Limitations of the study

All studies have limitations - including yours

- Purpose

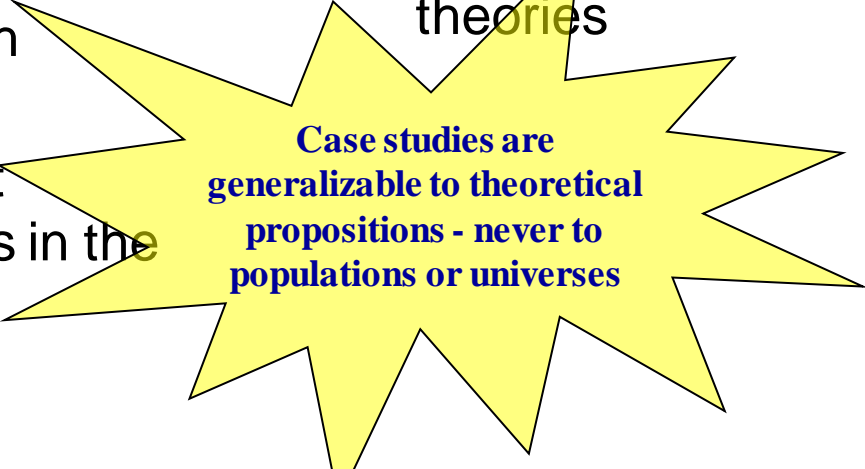
- it forces you to critique your own work and may improve your understanding of the results
- a clear assessment of the weaknesses indicates to the reviewer that you are a serious scientist who understands research
- helps the reader to understand important methodological points in the field

- Validity

- Address possible weakness in representing the real or true situation

- Generalizability

- Address weaknesses in generalizing to larger populations, situations, or theories



Case studies are generalizable to theoretical propositions - never to populations or universes

The conclusion and recommendation [sub] section

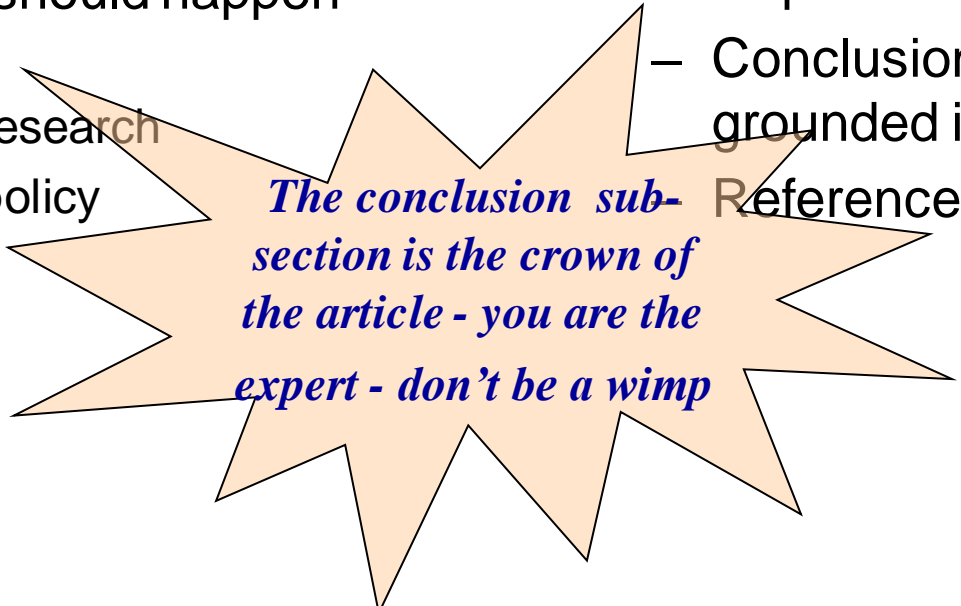
Purpose: *Provide the reader with the key take-home message, to highlight the implications of your findings and to make key recommendations for policy-making*

- What to have in a conclusion [sub] section

- *The* key message
- What should happen next?
 - In research
 - In policy

- What not to have in a conclusion sub-section

- New information
- Repeat of the results
- Conclusions that are not grounded in the discussion



The conclusion sub-section is the crown of the article - you are the expert - don't be a wimp

References

Writing the Introduction Section

The Introduction section

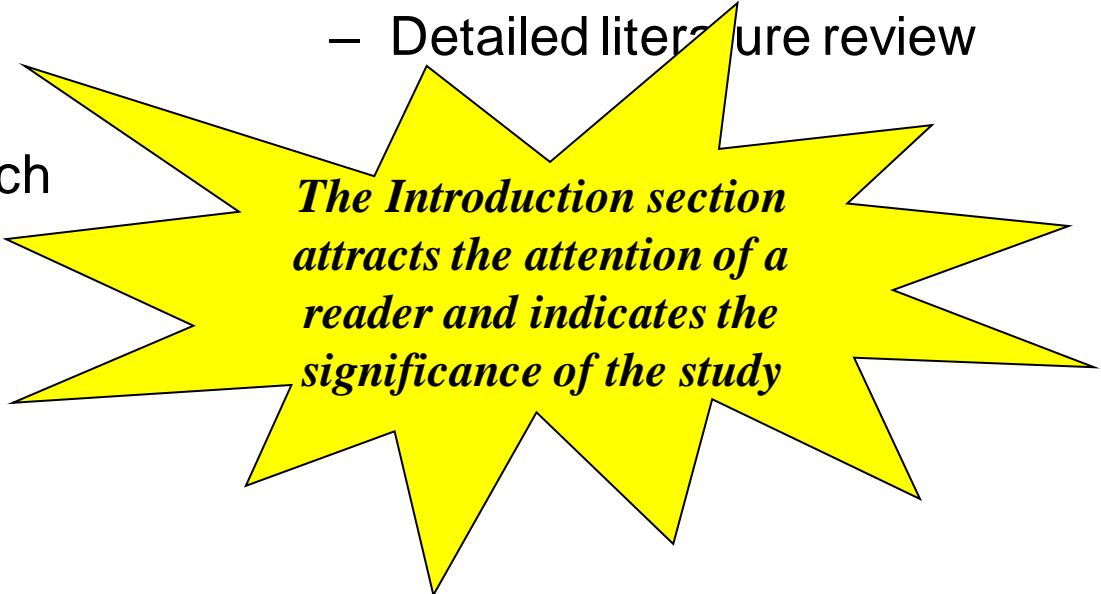
Purpose: *Tells the reader **why** you have undertaken the study, what is known and not known about the topic and what the significance of the study is*

- What to have in the Introduction section

- Topic under study
- Background
- Current scientific knowledge
- Gaps in knowledge
- Theoretical and practical significance
- Study objectives & research questions

- What not to have in a Introduction section

- Detailed information on site
- Results, Methods
- Conclusions
- Detailed literature review



The Introduction section attracts the attention of a reader and indicates the significance of the study

Introduction section: Example

(Green 2000, *Int J Health Plann Mgt* 15, p. 39f.)

Article's research focus

The need for reform of the health sector is recognized in many health systems...

Current scientific emphasis

Significant attention has been paid to the *content* of such reforms (Cassels 1994) with emphasis on alternative financing mechanisms, new forms of organization and management and a redefinition of the public/private interface...

Gap in knowledge

Less attention, however, has been paid to the processes (Walt and Gilson 1994, Reich 1995, Evans 1997, Frenk 1994) whereby such reform policies are formulated and implemented....

Author's specific intentions

This paper focuses on this latter aspect, providing a study of aspects of the factors affecting the structure of the health sector in Thailand focusing on the decade up to 1996.

Writing the abstract/summary

(and a note on titles and keywords)

The abstract or summary of a paper

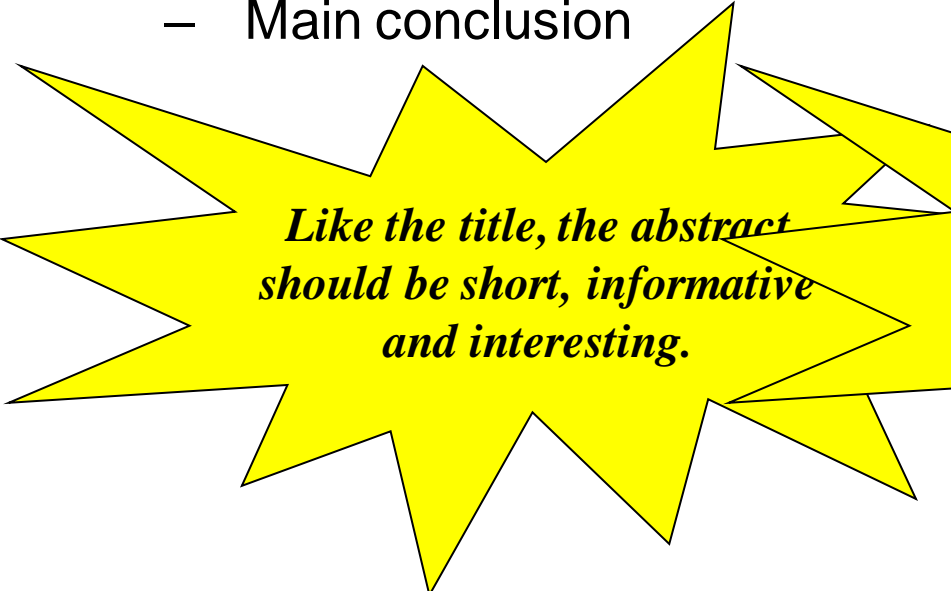
Purpose: The abstract briefly describes the study's purpose, methods, results, and conclusions. It should be intelligible when read apart from the rest of the paper.

- What to have in the abstract

- Study rationale
- Basic design and methodology
- Basic results
- Main conclusion

- What not to have in a abstract

- Introductory notes
- Description of study site
- Details on methods
- Discussion



Like the title, the abstract should be short, informative and interesting.



Text that is easy to read is hard to write!

Summary: Example

(Green 2000, *Int J Health Plann Mgt* 15, p. 39f.)

Why what was done?

This paper reports on exploratory research carried out into the processes of policy-making, and in particular health sector reform, in the health sector of Thailand. It is one of a set of studies examining health sector reform processes in a number of countries....

What was done?

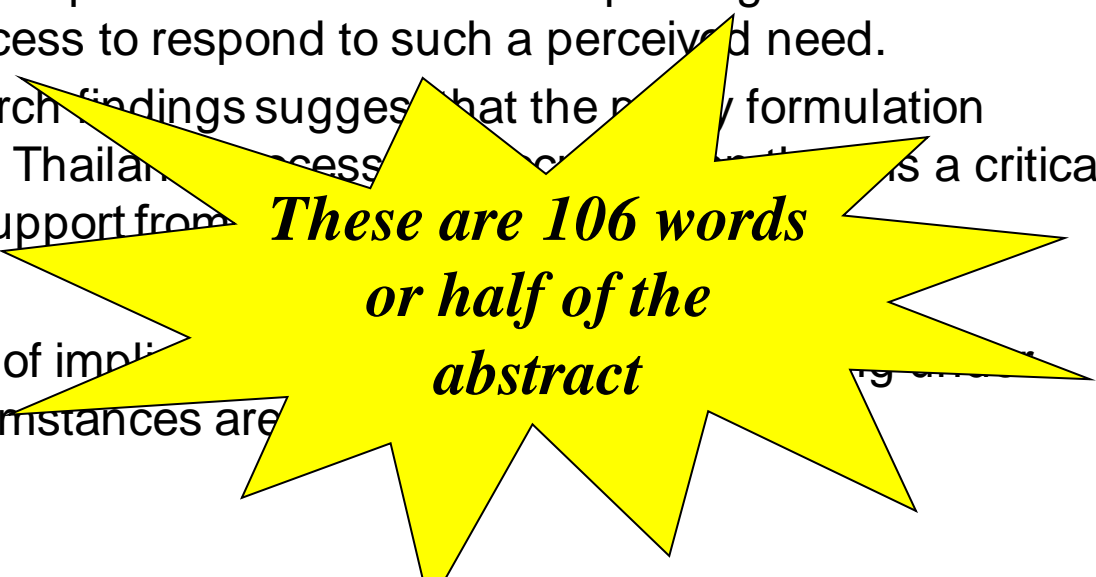
The research, based on both documentary analysis and interviews, explores the reasons underpinning the failure of the policy process to respond to such a perceived need.

What was found?

The research findings suggest that the policy formulation process in Thailand... is a critical mass of support from

What can be concluded?

A number of implications... such circumstances are



***These are 106 words
or half of the
abstract***

Title and keywords


Purpose: To convey, in easily understandable terms, what the article is about

- Title

- short and simple
- attracting interest
- avoiding jargon

- Keywords

- According to Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) of *Index Medicus*



*The title is the first
thing the editor,
reviewers and readers
will see!*



Good Luck