



Storytelling in Science Writing

EXERCISE: CREATE YOUR OWN ABT PARAGRAPH

Previously, we have explored the [ABT structure](#) that structures most stories and is useful for science writing. Now, let's put that ABT structure into practice by writing a paragraph that follows the ABT structure. In fact, an ABT paragraph can be used for your abstract as well as generally identifying the structure of your scientific article or thesis.

Example ABT paragraph (for "[Hardwood content impacts the parasitoid community associated with Eastern spruce budworm \(Lepidoptera: Tortricidae\)](#)"):

A major pest of eastern North American forests is spruce budworm, *Choristoneura fumiferana* Clemens (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), which outbreaks every 30–40 years and causes large scale tree mortality. Researchers have found that parasitism of spruce budworm by individual parasitoids is impacted by hardwood content. But, more research is needed to understand how hardwood content impacts the parasitoid community as a whole. Therefore, we used DNA barcoding and stable isotope analysis of Malaise trap sampled parasitoids to examine how hardwood content influenced parasitoid community composition, structure, and trophic interactions. We found that although composition did not significantly differ along a hardwood content gradient, phylogenetic community structure did differ. Furthermore, the trophic relationships between several parasitoids and caterpillars on balsam fir or hardwood trees changed over time.

INSTRUCTIONS

- For your own research, write a short ABT paragraph.
- You can write one or two sentences for each **AND**, **BUT**, & **THEREFORE** sections. Feel free to use And, But, & Therefore in your paragraph (or you can use similar words) ensuring that you keep the ABT order.
- For a scientific article, the **AND** sentences provide the known facts in the scientific literature. The **BUT** sentences provide the knowledge gap (a problem) that must be solved. The **BUT** sentences also summarize the methods. The **THEREFORE** sentences summarize the results and provide the solution to the knowledge gap or problem. The **THEREFORE** sentences can also state future research.
- You can write an ABT paragraph for your whole thesis, for a single thesis chapter, or for an article you are currently working on.

