



Storytelling in Science Writing

EXERCISE: CREATE YOUR OWN LOGLINE

A logline is a one-sentence summary of a movie or TV program. Loglines are useful for scientific writing because they help to identify the most important message of any writing project. In science writing, a logline identifies one core problem or knowledge gap and provides the answer. Generally, a logline does not appear in a scientific article (although loglines can help to create the title). Instead, loglines ensure the writing is always about one core problem.

Examples of science loglines:

DNA is a two chained structure, not a three chained structure. – From “[Molecular Structure of Nucleic Acids: A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid](#)”

- Before this article, most scientists thought that DNA was a three chained structure. Essentially the knowledge gap of this article was “what is the structure of DNA?”

Hardwood content changes the community structure of parasitoid species associated with spruce budworm. – From “[Hardwood content impacts the parasitoid community associated with Eastern spruce budworm \(Lepidoptera: Tortricidae\)](#)”

- The knowledge gap of this article was “does hardwood content affect the community structure of the parasitoids associated with spruce budworm?”

INSTRUCTIONS

- Write a single sentence that captures the core problem or knowledge gap of your research.
- Use the sentence to answer your knowledge gap. Try to ensure your knowledge gap has a single focus (although that focus can be broad if the logline is for your whole thesis).
- You can write a logline for your whole thesis, for a single thesis chapter, or an article you are currently working on.

Write your logline: