Who cares?

Spark Pre-college Internship Writing Workshop 2
July 9, 2012
Tasks for today...

- Check numbers needing transport to Metro from Boulder
- Elevator Speeches
- Introduction, motivation and putting your research in context
- Research tools
- College Panel (10:30)
- Pizza lunch with SOARS (11:30)

These slides can be found on the website!
Our website

https://spark.ucar.edu/programs/pre-college-internship-communications-workshop
Internship so far....

Good?
Bad?
Confusing?
Out of the stratosphere awesome?

Do you have any: Questions? Concerns?
Problems? Jargon?
My research in 60 seconds ...
The introduction

• First section of a paper or poster, it sets the scene for your research
• It answers the question “why do we care?” by putting your research into the context of other research in the field
• Typically starts with “the big picture” then focuses down to show what other people have studied in this area
• Finally it introduces your research question: by then we understand how it fits and why it is important.

It’s pretty similar to the elevator speech - but with more references!
Your introduction

• The big picture - why is this important?
• Some of the work immediately related to your project - what has been done before?
• Your research question - what new knowledge are you contributing?
References and Resources

• Ask your mentor for some relevant papers
• Books can be good for “the big picture”
• Online resources
  - Web of Science
  - Google Scholar
  - NCAR, NOAA, NASA websites
• The library!
How do I read a scientific paper?
How do I read a scientific paper?

Is the abstract relevant?
Yes
- Do you want background information?
  Yes
  - Do you want to know the result?
    Yes
    - Look at figures and/or read Results and Discussion
  No
  - Read introduction

No
- Does the title sound relevant?
  Yes
  - Look at references
  No
  - Go on to next paper

Still interested?
Yes
- Read the rest of the paper
No
- Do you want to know the result?
  Yes
  - Look at figures and/or read Results and Discussion
  No
  - Read introduction

Scientific papers are seldom read (or written) from start to finish!
• You don’t have to read the whole paper, just the parts that you are interested in

**NOTE:** If you are referencing the paper, make sure the paper says what you say it says!

• The tables and figures often tell you most of the story, but the text should help interpret them

• The introduction and references are a valuable resource for putting the work in context and gaining historical perspective

• Think about what you read. Do you agree? Are there holes in the arguments? Has the work stood the test of time? The literature doesn’t only include the “right” answers, but also hypotheses that are later disproved!
NCAR library and online resources

http://www.library.ucar.edu/

Note: to have full access to everything the library subscribes to, you’ll need to use it while you’re at NCAR
Homework/Workshop

• Begin to put your research into context. Read some papers and take notes (don’t forget to record bibliography information!). Link your research question into the work that has gone before.

• Draft your introduction. Some people like this section to be called “Motivation” on their poster… use whichever feels right to you!