

# WRITING CONCLUSIONS

By Louis Lebel

Director

Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER)

Chiang Mai University

[lebel@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:lebel@loxinfo.co.th), [louis@sea-user.org](mailto:louis@sea-user.org)

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# Conclusions

- Respond to the purpose statement in the introduction
- Identify most important outcome
- Draw generalizations or abstractions that go beyond the immediate case or observations
- Explicitly state the significance of the findings
- (Suggest next steps)

## Do

- Keep it short (1 or 2 short paragraphs)
- Make it interesting and memorable for the reader

## Don't

- Summarize points already made
- Overstate the significance of findings

# Responding to purpose statement

A

## Purpose (abstract)

- The purpose of this paper is to analyse how fish farmers manage climate-related risks and explore possible ways to strengthen risk management under current and future climate

## Conclusion

- they use a combination of adjustments to rearing practices, cropping calendars and financial and social measures to manage those risks...
- Underlining... for strengthening risk management....

# Identifying important outcomes

A

**A key finding** of this study is that individual risks are often addressed through multiple practices and strategies and that a particular practice can have a bearing on several different risks.

Social relations and information play **critical roles** in managing these complex combinations of risks

Analyze !

- Can you find where?

# Drawing generalizations

A

## Weak

- Not much beyond summarizing findings
- Some indirect examples...

## Missing

- Risk management in inland aquaculture....
- Farm level vs. watershed level management...

... **potential importance** of collective action, best practices and decision support tools ...

... **More broadly**, the findings of this study imply that adaptation ...

# Stating significance

A

- For adaptation to climate change...

More broadly, the findings of this study imply that adaptation will often ***need to consider*** multiple spatial and temporal scales as well as the fact that farmers do not manage individual climate-related risk in isolation from other risks.

# Analyze this conclusion

B

- What is the opening sentence about ?
- Is the most important outcome clear?
- What is the last sentence about?
- hm

While there have been many previous studies documenting..... Important gender differences in the use and management of water were identified in this study, and many varied with eco-cultural context.... Men, however, dominated decision-making roles in.... underlying the complexity of factors influencing gender relations in water governance

# Getting started on the conclusions

- Opening take-home message (0-1)
- Respond to the purpose statement (2-3)
- Identify most important outcome (1-2)
- Key generalizations or abstractions (1-2)
- Significance of the findings (1-2)
- Suggest next steps (1)
- Ending take-home message (0-1)

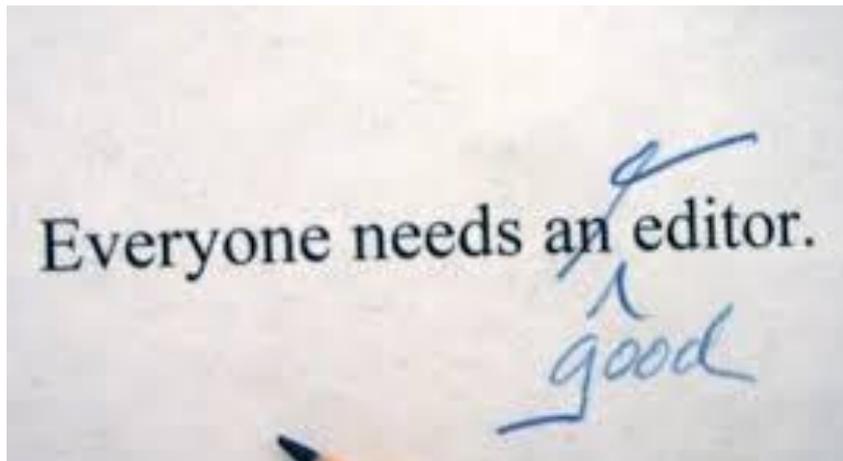
Make it up if you have to...



DO IT NOW !

- Write an outline of your conclusion using short dot points
- You have 5 minutes

# Improving your own writing



- Review drafts of your colleagues
- When you read published papers critique their ‘organization’ and ‘argument’
- Allocate time to revise your own work
- Seek feedback from others