




Graduate Research Advanced Skills Program (GRASP)

Research Writing Series

Writing analytically

Dr Petra Dumbell, Sem 2 2022



I acknowledge the Whadjuk Nyungar as the Custodians of the land on which I live and work. This Country was never ceded, it always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

I pay my respects to Whadjuk Nyungar Elders past and present. I value their ancestral and continuing caring for Country practices and thank them for looking after this Country for so long.

I appreciate Indigenous ways of communication which are inclusive and respectful, and I recognise that this Country has been a place of teaching, research and learning for tens of thousands of years.

Why write analytically?

Analysis ... finds questions where there don't seem to be any ... and makes connections that might not have been evident at first.

The word analysis derives from the ancient Greek 'analysis', "a breaking up", It is a way of taking things apart, breaking them down.

But, then we aim to rebuild the parts into more complex systems.
Both the breaking down and the rebuilding processes aid our understanding.

Rosenwasser D, and Stephen J (2009) p.3&4

Five analytical moves

- Move 1 Suspend Judgement
- Move 2 Identify significant parts and how they are related
- Move 3 Make the implicit explicit
- Move 4 Look for patterns
- Move 5 Look for anomalies

(Rosenwasser and Stephen (2009, pp. 3-10)

Move 1 - Suspend Judgement

- Analysis aims to find out things we don't know, or clarify understandings we already have.
- Our thinking is conditioned by previous experiences and is largely unconscious.
- Pre-judging may block your attempts at deepening your understanding.
- Stay mindful of unconscious bias

Implicit Association Test -

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/australia/takeatest.html>

Move 2 - Identify significant parts and how they are related

- Find out what things are - naming, classifying
- Find out how these things are related
 - Similarities
 - Differences
 - Correlations
 - Contradictions

Move 3 - Make the implicit explicit

- Implication: An aspect inherent in the object you are studying, which you bring into view.
- Drawing out implications in the object you are analysing means that you are making inferences. Bring what is hidden into full view.

Rosenwasser and Stephen (2009, pp. 3-10)

Move 4 – Look for patterns

- Everything we do in our research is about relations.
- The relations between parts being analysed may appear random or insignificant.
- However, relations are best understood in terms of patterns:
 - look for patterns of resemblance or repetition
 - look for binary oppositions
 - look for anomalies

Move 4 – Look for patterns

Patterns of difference – contradiction, negative correlation, or
*dissimilarity · contrast · distinction · distinctness · differentiation · variance ·
variation · variability · divergence · deviation · polarity · gulf · breach · gap ·
split · disparity · imbalance · unevenness · incongruity · contradiction ·
contradistinction · nonconformity · unlikeness · contrariety · dissimilitude*

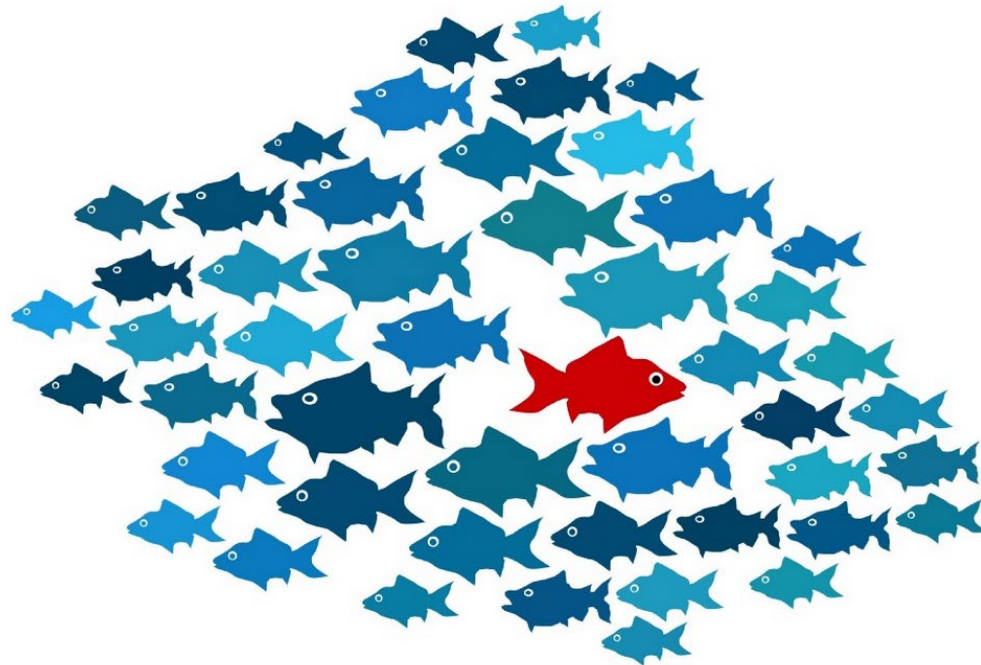
Patterns of binary opposition

Intracellular/Extracellular, 0/1, Good/Evil, Male/Female, Nature/Culture,
Birth/Death, Original/Copy, Inside/Outside
Is everything black and white though?

<https://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>

Move 5 – Look for anomalies

- Things which stand out – seem strange, peculiar, unusual; they just don't seem to fit in.



<https://www.tatvic.com/blog/detecting-real-time-anomalies-using-r-google-analytics-360-data/>

Move 1- 5

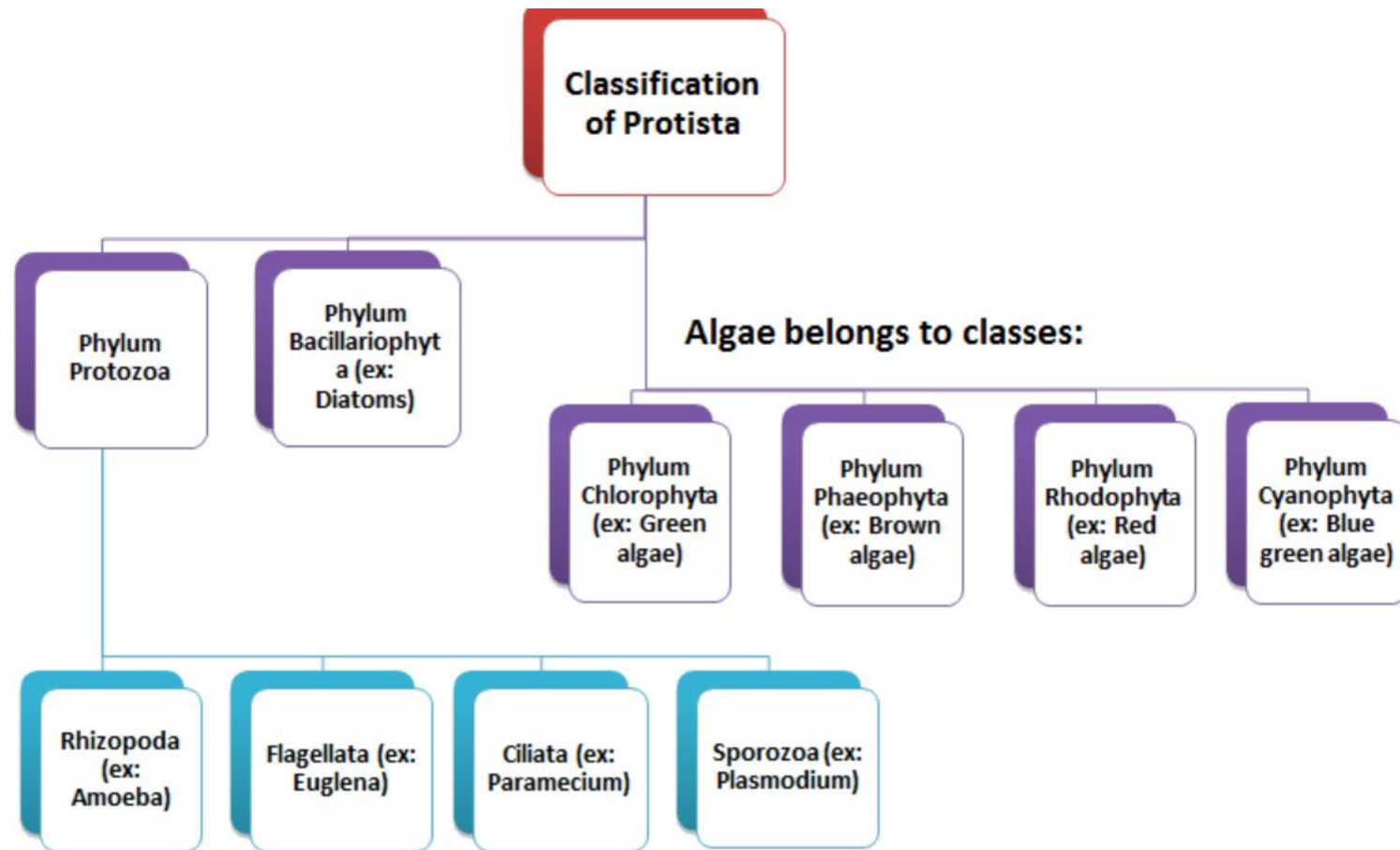
- Keep reformulating questions!
- Which details seem significant?
- What does the detail mean?
- What else might it mean?
- How do the details fit together?
- What does this pattern of details mean?
- What else might it mean?
- What details don't seem to fit?
- What does this new pattern mean?

Rosenwasser and Stephen 2009, pp. 3-10

Interpretation

- Follows the process of analysis
- You need to turn analytical observations into conclusions
- Asking *So What?*
 - What does the observation imply?
 - Why does the observation matter?
 - Where does this observation get us?
 - How can we begin to generalise about the subject?

(Rosenwasser & Stephen, 2009, pp. 56-57)





<https://www.biggerplate.com/mindmaps/hbAcUEEc/principles-for-improving-organizational-cultures>

Questions

GRASP webpage

<https://researchtoolkit.library.curtin.edu.au/grasp/>

Help

LibraryResearchSupport@curtin.edu.au

Feedback (Stop – Start – Continue)

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t7roPInys2xK_0zY69ivY9s09ZNs2iY_byLVdCSKD7M/edit?usp=sharing

References

O'Leary, Zina. 2010. The essential guide to doing your research project. London: Sage.

Rosenwasser D, and Stephen J 2009/2012. Writing analytically. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth.