

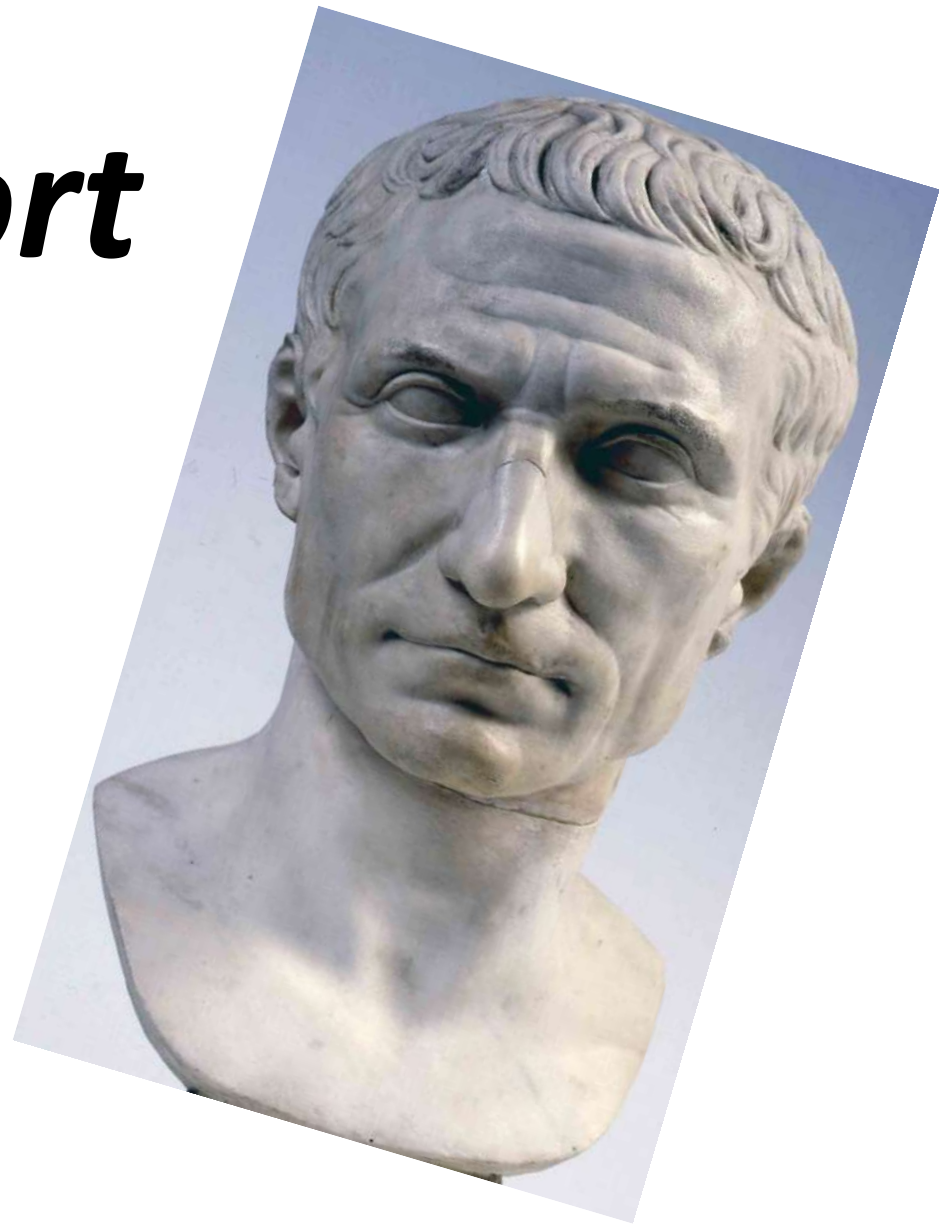
# ***Writing Short***

***I came.***

***I saw.***

***I conquered.***

***Veni, vidi, vici.***



**I came**

**Who?**

**Where?**

**When?**

**Why?**

**How?**

**I saw**

**What?**

**I conquered**

**What?**

**How?**

**Why?**

## TECHNICAL PAPER

**BACKGROUND**

**METHODS**

**FINDINGS &  
DISCUSSION**

**THE POINT!**

## NEWS STORY

**LEAD  
THE POINT!**

**BACKGROUND**

**FINDINGS**

**MAYBE A  
BIT MORE**

**TECHNICAL PAPER**

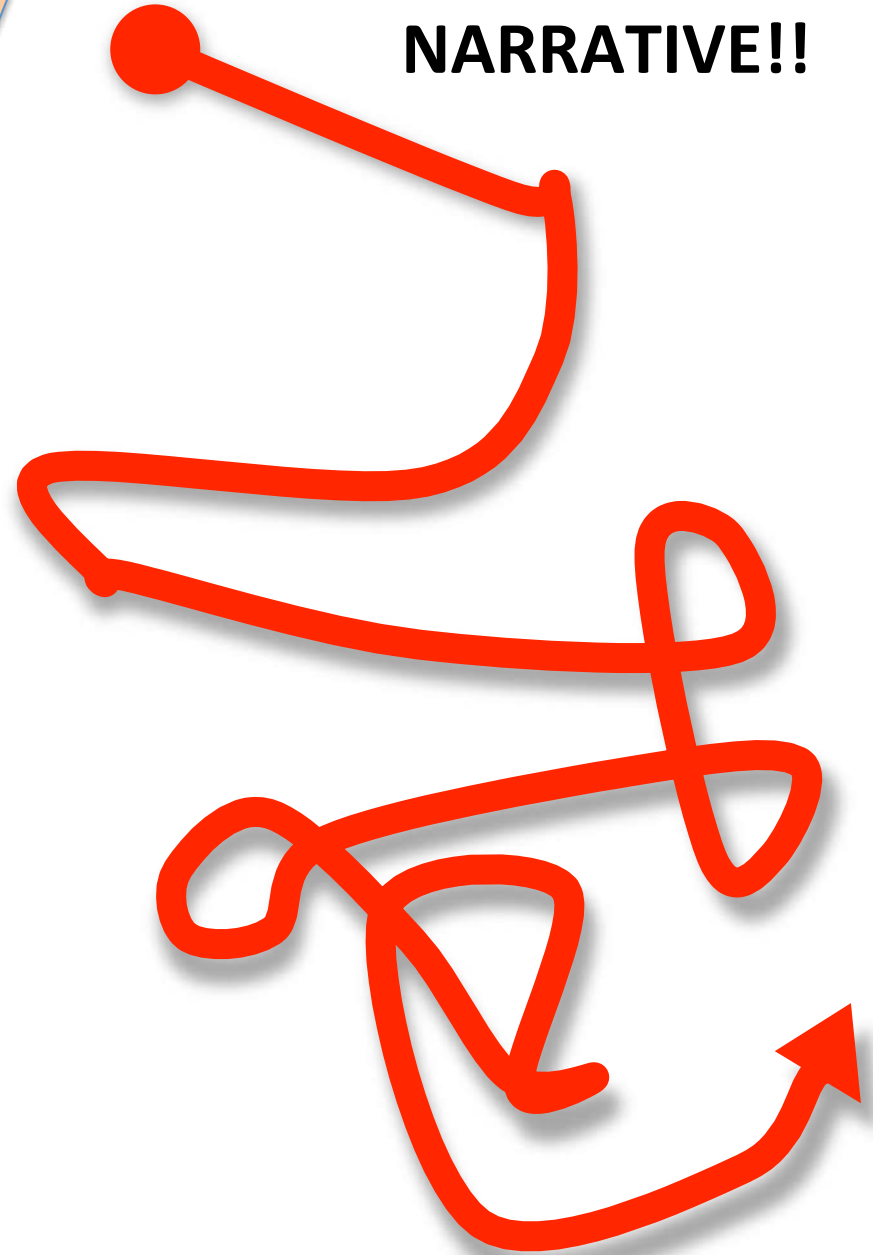
**BACKGROUND**

**METHODS**

**FINDINGS**

**THE POINT!**

**NARRATIVE!!**



# ***So, what to do?***

## ***Less of everything.***

- Focus on fewest number of characters possible.
- Stick to a chronological narrative. (Don't force reader to work or go back.)
- Compress time: Use “sign posts” as your time jumping machine (“ultimately,” “eventually,” “in the end,” “Then,” “Finally.”)

# Luckily, science stories often lend themselves to streamlined narratives:

*The Quest*

*The Mystery*

*The Voyage of Change*

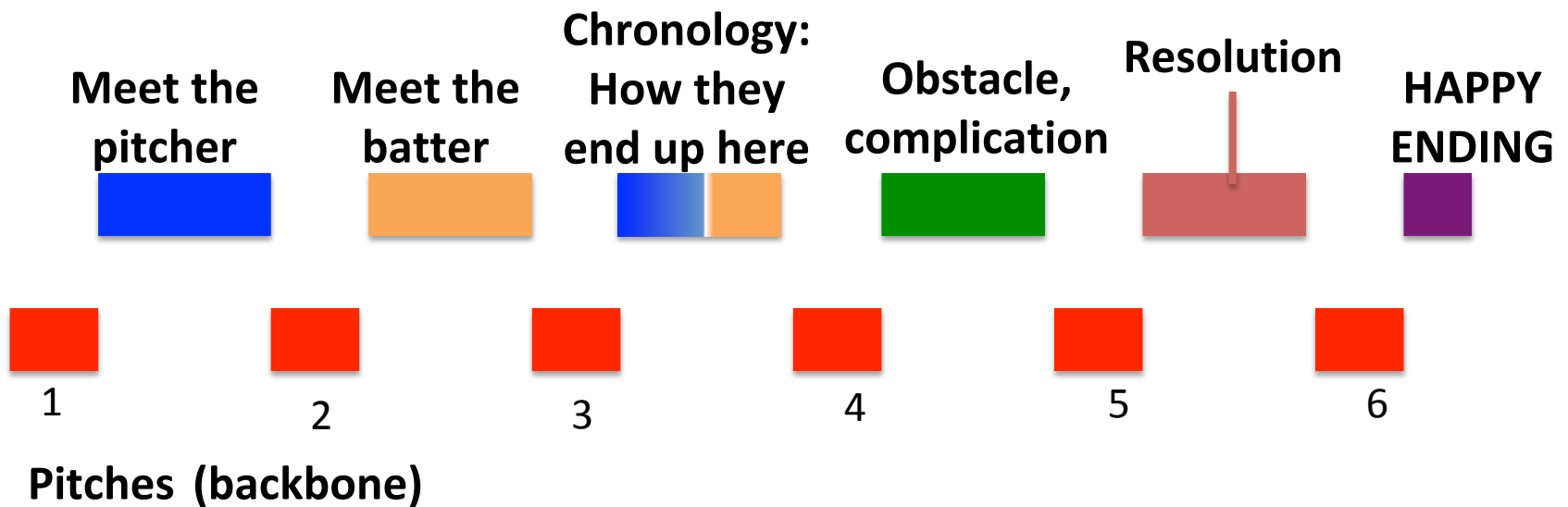
**Begin at the beginning:** Why did they do the work (set off on the quest or voyage)? What was the question (mystery)?

**The middle:** What did they do? How did they do it? What obstacles did they have to overcome?

**The end:** Eureka! We found it! We have solved the mystery! We are changed! We see the world differently!

# *Sometime, you get lucky...*

## *The Tale of Two Softball Pitchers*



*Sometimes, short can even be fun...*



1:09

+ QUEUE

DOWNLOAD

EMBED

RESEARCH NEWS

## Reef Fish Holds Vertebrate Record for Brief Life

April 26, 2005 · 12:00 AM ET

Heard on *All Things Considered*



CHRISTOPHER JOYCE



Scientists say they've identified a fish with the shortest life span of any vertebrate. The coral reef pygmy gobi lives, at most, 59 days.

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4620587>