## Tell a compelling story

Combining killer graphics and narrative for effective science communication

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Charles Darwin University
15 Sept 2017

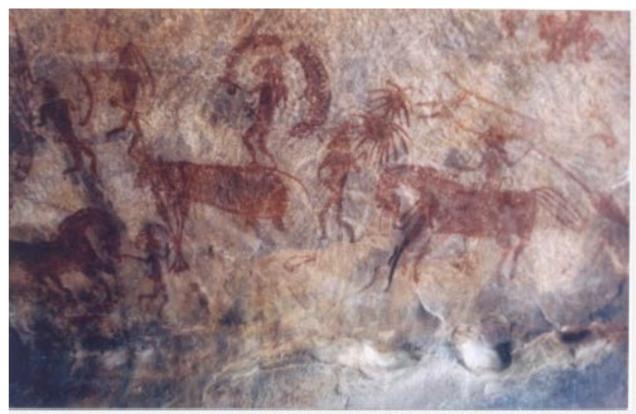




# Narrative & visual communication are ancient



Albert Anker's Der Grossvater erzählt eine Geschichte, 1884 (The Grandfather tells a story). Image: Wikimedia Commons



Stone age painting depicting man riding on horse found in the Bhimbetka rock shelters in India, Credit: Creative Commons





## Why combine narrative and visuals for science communication?

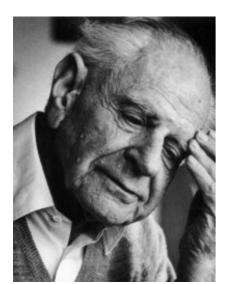
- Engage audience; stories are more interesting than a string of facts, compelling visuals illustrate points
- Improve retention; easier to remember good stories and effective visual elements
- Shorten reading time; audience/reader can follow storyline and view visual elements quickly

Adapted from Dahlstrom, 2014

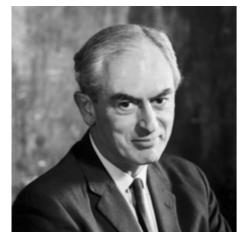




## Science and storytelling are linked



Karl Popper



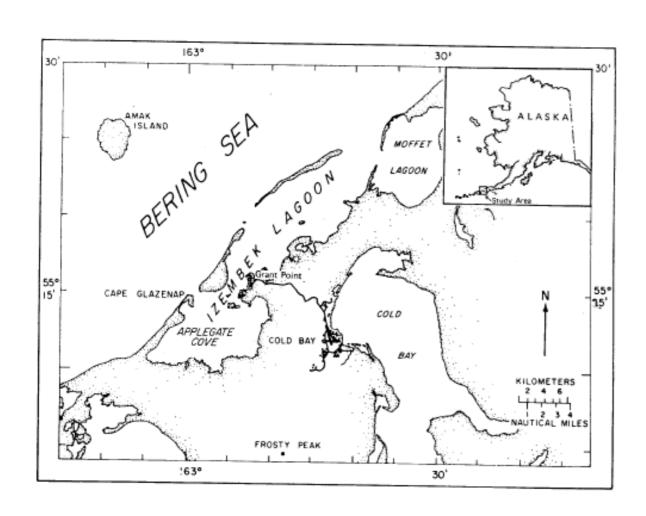
Peter Medawar

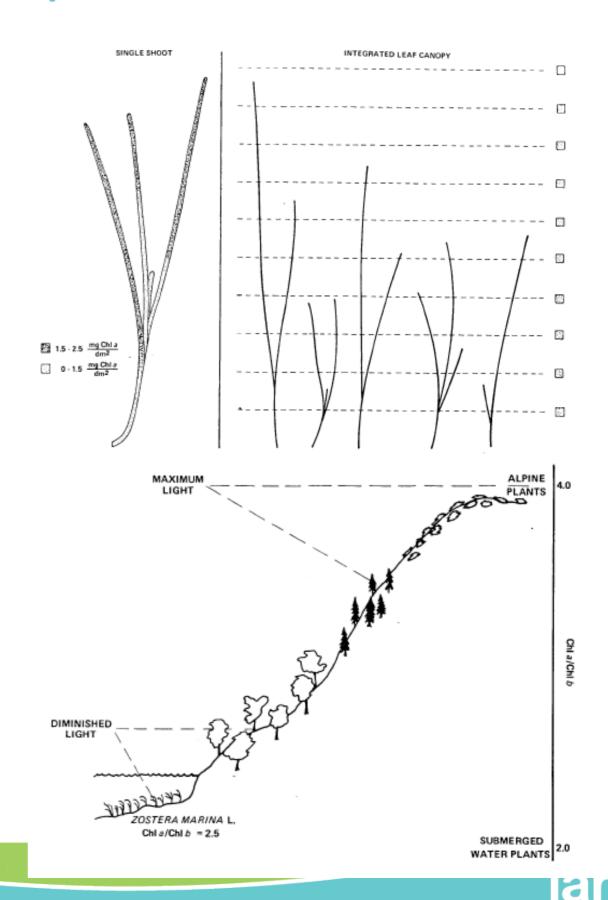
"It is one of the novelties of human language that it encourages story telling and thus *creative imagination*. Scientific discovery is akin to explanatory storytelling, to myth making and to poetic imagination."

"Scientific theories ... begin as imaginative constructions. They begin, if you like, as stories, and the purpose of the critical or rectifying episode in scientific reasoning is precisely to find out whether or not these stories are stories about real life."



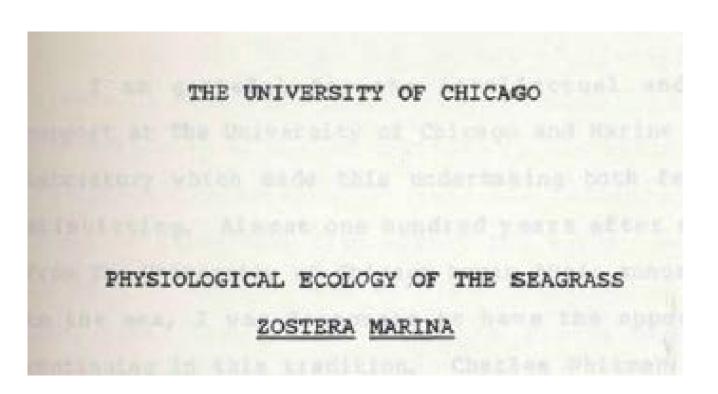
#### Hand drawn sketches as part of M.S. thesis

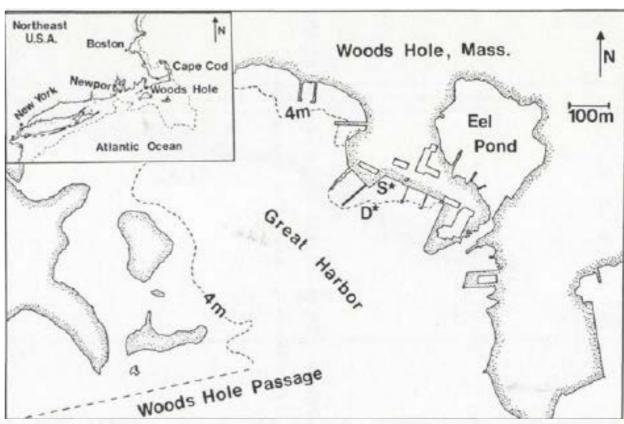




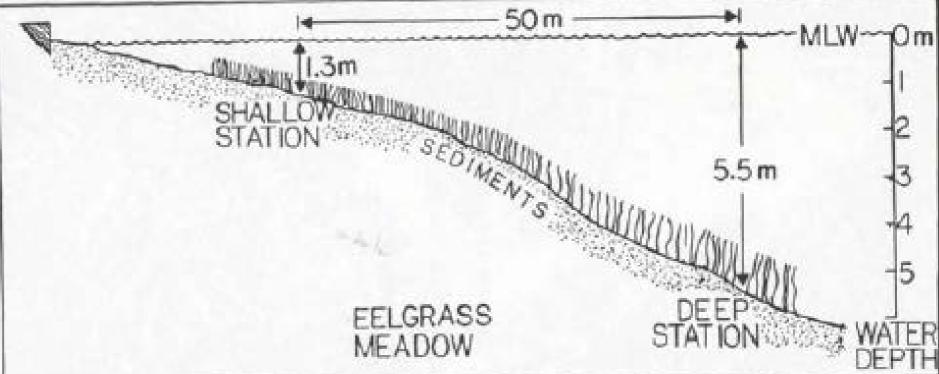


#### Hand drawn sketches as part of PhD





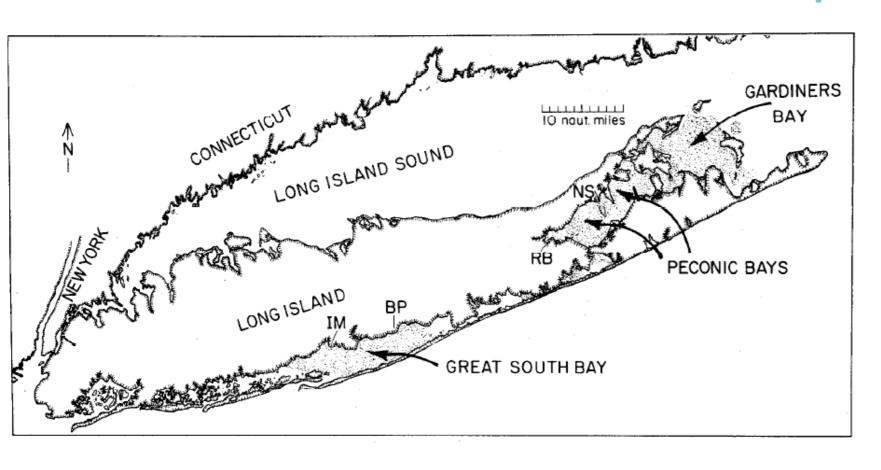


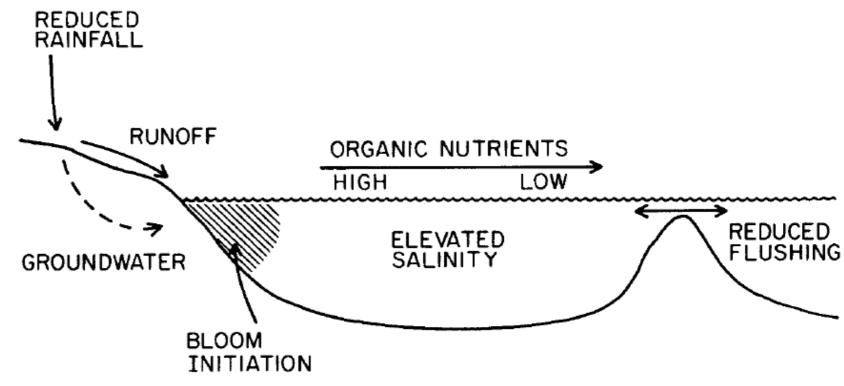






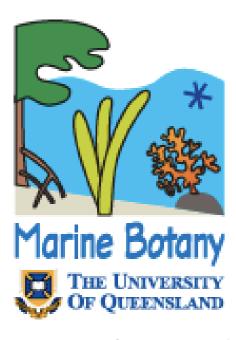
#### Hand drawn sketches as part of postdoc







#### Marine Botany in Queensland, Australia





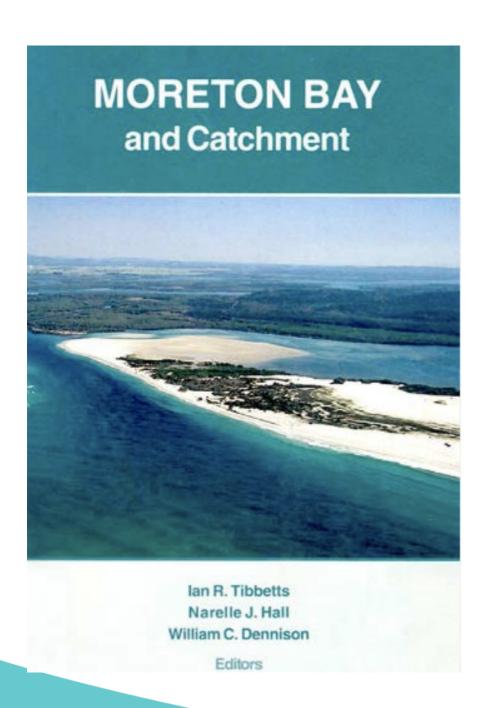


- Developed color graphics capacity
- Became involved in Healthy Waterways Campaign
- Used color graphics for communicating to broader audiences





## Classic scientific book: B & W, dense, peer science audience



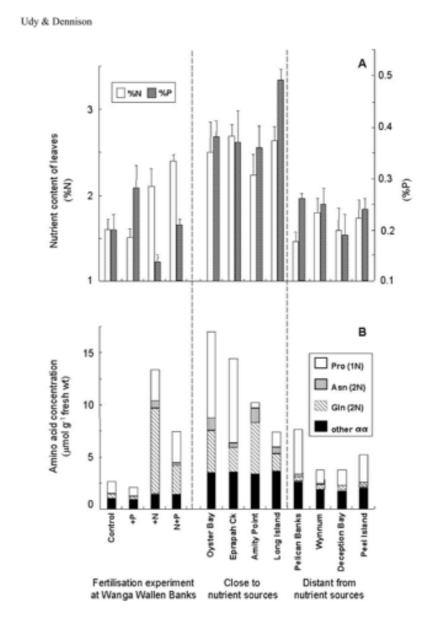
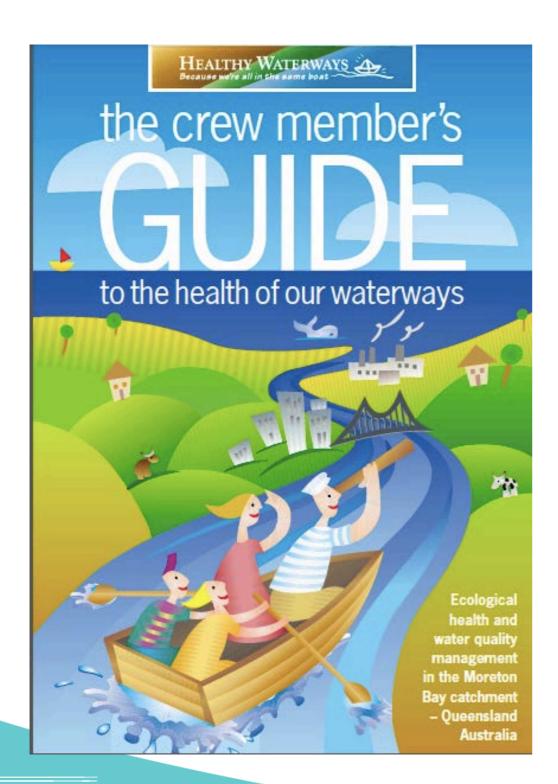


Figure 4. Characteristics of Zostera capricorni leaves which were influenced by both fertilisation and proximity to a nutrient source: (A) nutrient content, (B) concentration of amino acids; proline (Pro), asparagine (Asn), glutamine (Gln) and the other amino acids (other αα). (Combined data from Udy & Dennison, 1997a &1997b).



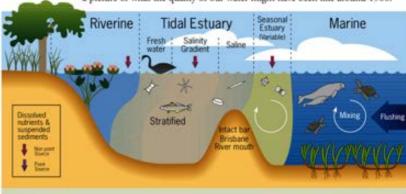
#### Published Crew Guide using color graphics





#### Historical water quality

From observations like these and other existing historical data, scientists have been able to reconstruct a picture of what the quality of our water might have been like around 1900.



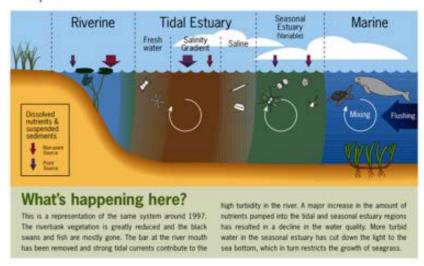
#### What's happening here?

a variety of riverbank plant and animal life, including the black excessive tidal movement. There was a limited amount of swans or Marutchi, and there were fish in the rivers. The bar human-made waste being added to the system

This is a representation of the waterways of the Moreton Bay at the mouth of the river protected the riverine (fresh water) catchment as they may have existed around 1900. There was and tidal estuary (salt water) regions of the river from

#### Today's water quality

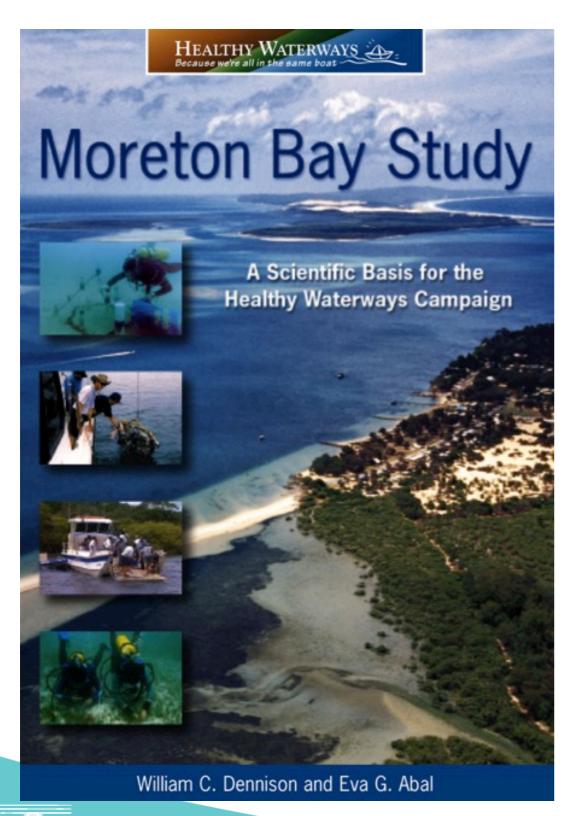
If you extend the scenario to our waterways today, you get an understanding of the extent of the problems we face.





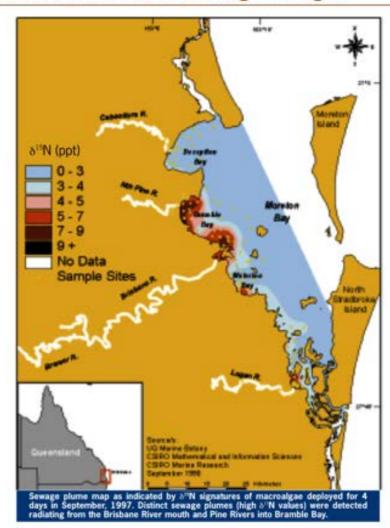


### Scientific synthesis





#### Localised influence of sewage nitrogen



Macroalgae (Catenella nipae) was collected from a low nutrient environment in the eastern Bay. This was then deployed in perforated chambers at half secchi depth at more than 100 sites around the Bay. This active bioindicator identified distinct sewage plumes originating from the Brisbane and Pine Rivers in September. These result in plumes of sewage nitrogen extending into Bramble and Waterloo Bays.

Seasonal variations in the geographical extent of the sewage plumes were identified using active markers at different times of the year. During

130





### Second scientific synthesis

Healthy Waterways
Healthy Catchments MAKING THE CONNECTION IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA HEALTHY WATERWAYS

CHAPTER 4 - SEDIMENTS

#### Erosion process tracing confirms model predictions

Cediment tracing methods provide us with Oan independent means of testing the model predictions. Surface soil samples were collected throughout the catchments from cultivated and uncultivated lands, and from subsoils in gullies and stream banks. These source types can be distinguished by measuring concentrations of cesium-137 (15°Cs) and radium-226 (126Ra). 13°Cs is a product of atmospheric nuclear weapons testing that occurred in the 1950-70s. It accumulates in surface soil, and labels sediment eroded from topsoils. 226Ra is a naturally occurring radio-nuclide that can occur in reduced concentrations in cultivated soils, possibly due to leaching. Together, these two radionuclides can give a good indication of the origin of sediment from the landscape,

Sediment samples collected from the lower reaches of the Brisbane and Logan Rivers upstream of the tidal estuaries, are likely to be well mixed during transport, and so should represent sediment delivered from many sources in their respective

catchments. The mean 137Cs and 236Ra in the sediment sample values lie between the mean cultivated surface soil and subsoil values, while the mean uncultivated surface soil value lies well away from this group. Assuming that the mean sediment concentrations are a linear mix of the two primary sources, then we can estimate that 75 ± 25% of the sediments originate from subsoil (channel) erosion in the Brisbane and Logan catchments, while the remaining 25 ± 25% comes from cultivated surface soils. Note that these results have a relatively high statistical uncertainty (± 25%), which means that the variation in the contribution of surface soils and subsoils to river sediments is relatively high. On average, the subsoil contribution to the Logan and Brisbane Rivers will vary from 50-100%. These results do not exclude the likelihood that some sediment is also coming from uncultivated land, however, the contribution is relatively small.



Casium isotope residu is deposited on soil surface from nuclear

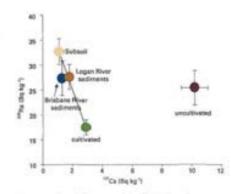
Ra Radium isotope ieached through soil profile

Co ed

Ra adsorbed FlaCs deposited with sediments with sediment in rivers and Bay

Sediment sampled for Ch and Ra sotope ratios

Erosion processes were traced using the isotopes cesium (1970a) and redum (1970a). Used in combination, these two radionuclides can give a good indication about where sediment has originated from in the landscape.



Average radium (\*\*Ra) and cesium (\*\*Cs) values from cuttivated and uncuttivated soils (hillstope arcsion) and subsoils (channel erosion), compared with average values obtained from sediment in the lower Brisbane and Logan Rivers. These results show that the river sediments mainly originate from subsoil erosion (75%), with most of the remaining sediment coming from erosion of cultivated soil.

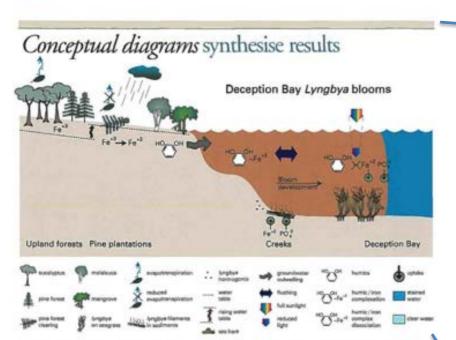






## Conceptual diagrams used to synthesize results



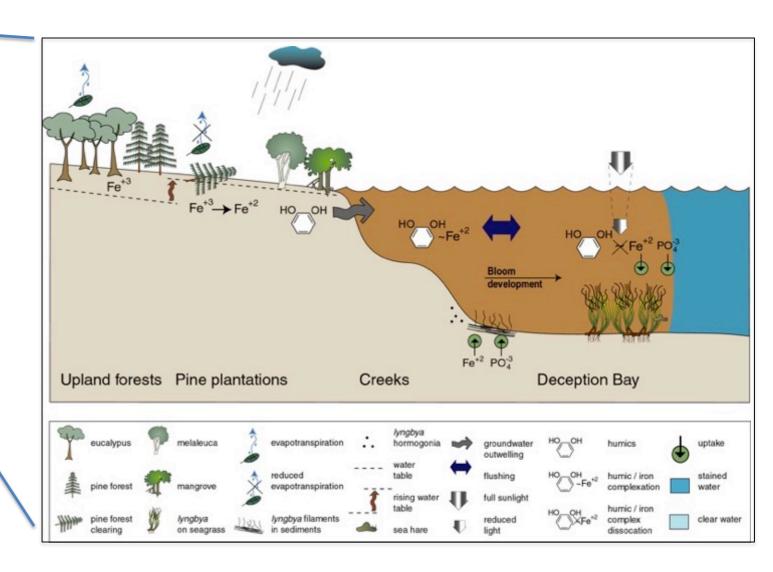


A conceptual diagram was developed summarising the current understanding of the processes leading to formation and delivery of bio-available iron in the Deception Bay and Purnicestone region. Conceptual diagrams are modified as new information is acquired.

#### **Deception Bay**

In the early phases of the bloom, Lyngbya I majuscula cells (hormogonia) appear to develop into filaments in the sediments and grow on the sediment and on seagrass macroalgal substrates. For Lyngbya majuscula to proliferate, it requires sources of phosphorus and bioavailable iron (Fe). Nitrogen (N) is sourced from N fixation in the initial stages of a bloom, however, L. majuscula is capable of taking up NOx and NH3 if available. There are large sources of Fe in the catchment from the Landsborough sandstone, but a transport mechanism is required to deliver bioavailable Fe (dissolved Fe<sup>15</sup>)to L. maiuscula bloom sites. Reduced evapotranspiration resulting from largescale catchment disturbance results in rising water table. Water-saturated soils become anoxic and the chemical reduction of dissolved Fe

compounds leads to the formation of Fe<sup>2</sup>. Rainfall events carry organic-rich waters, which form complexes with Fe<sup>2</sup>. The humic/Fe<sup>2</sup> complexes are then flushed into northern Deception Bay. With sufficient light, photolysis (splitting by light) results in the dissociation (separation of the humic Fe<sup>2</sup> complexes), thus making Fe<sup>2</sup> available for uptake by L. majuscula probably by enzymes associated with the surface of L. majuscula. These particular sources and transport mechanism may be unique to Deception Bay blooms, however, casual factors may be similar in other areas where L. majuscula blooms have been observed.

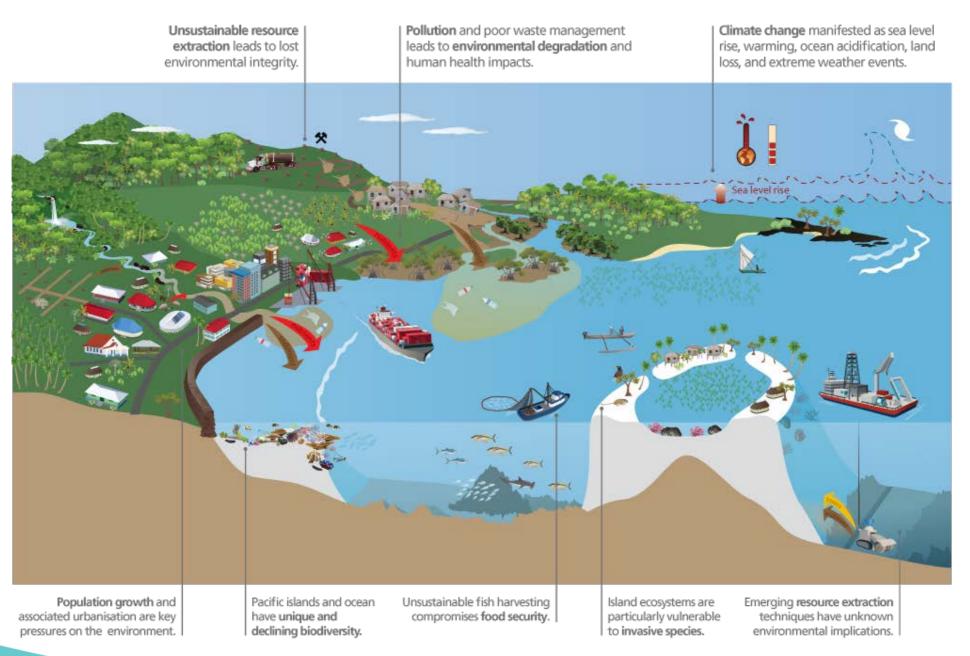






#### What is a conceptual diagram?

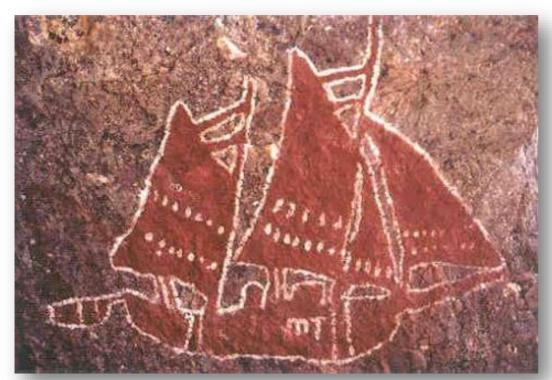
A diagram using symbols that depicts the essential attributes of a system: "thought drawing"

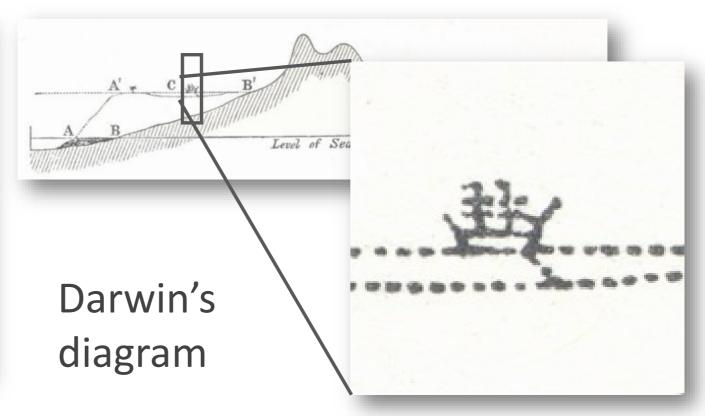






## Conceptual diagrams use symbols depict unequivocal messages





Cave painting

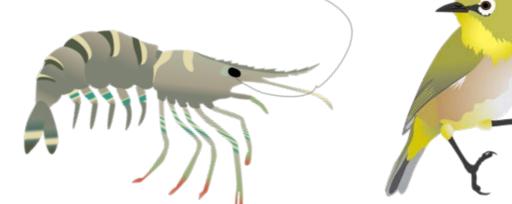




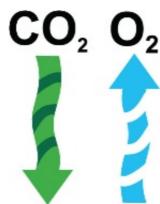


## Symbols are language independent and universal

 Symbols can represent something tangible



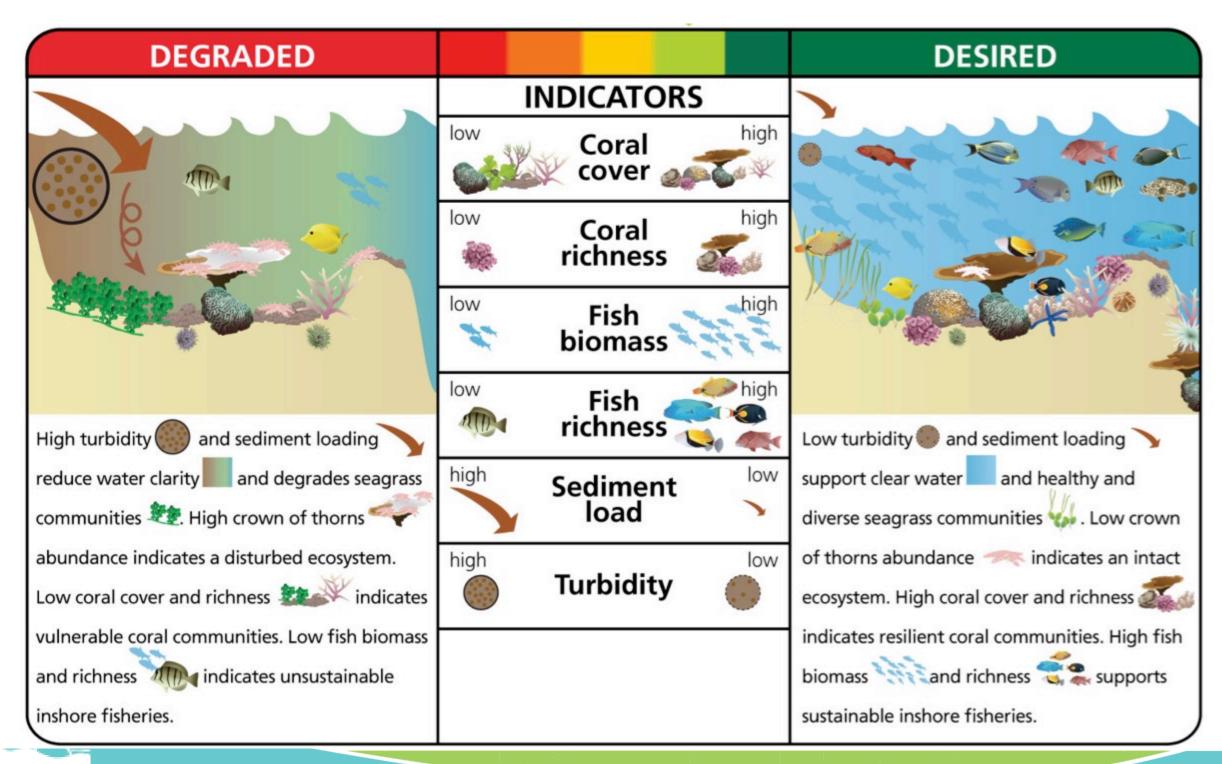
 Symbols can represent something invisible or intangible





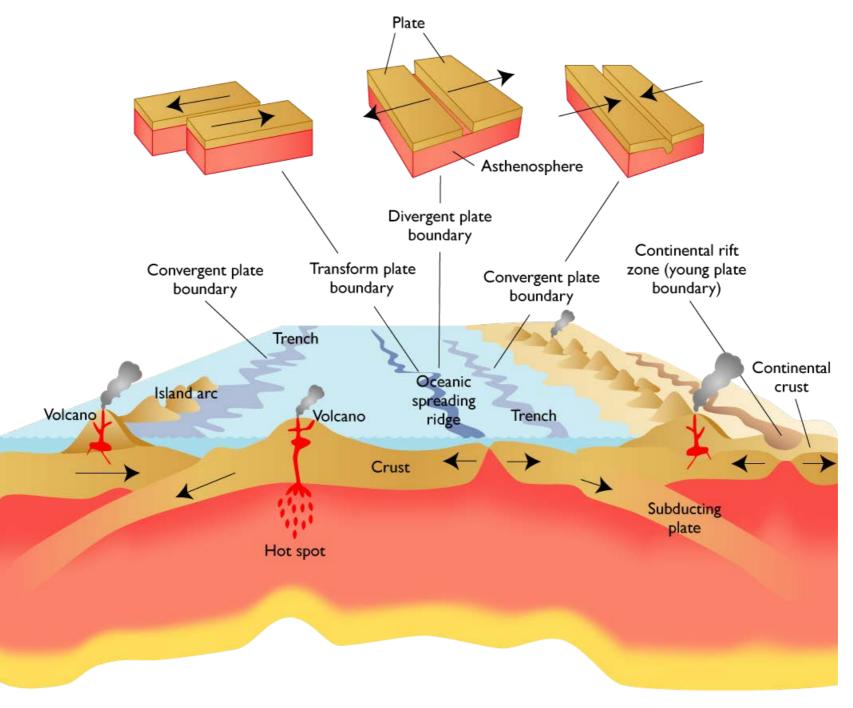


## Size, shape, color, and position of symbols conveys information





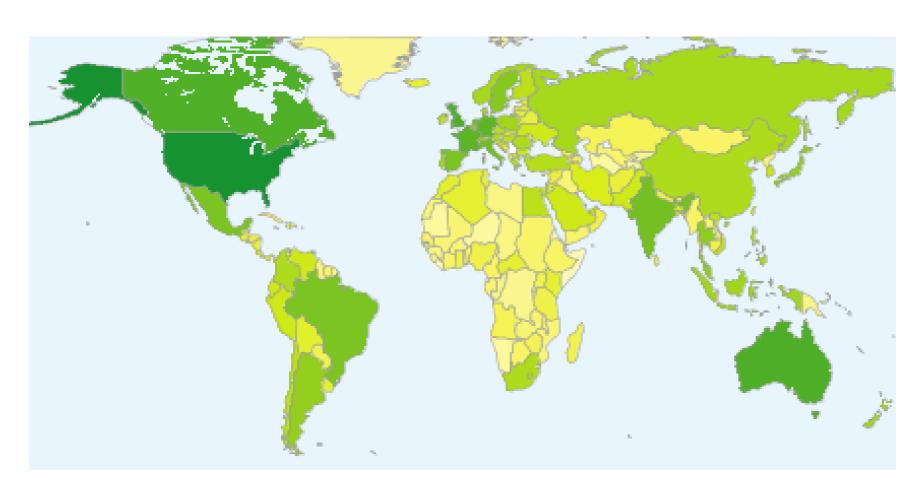
## Good conceptual diagrams synthesize and present information clearly

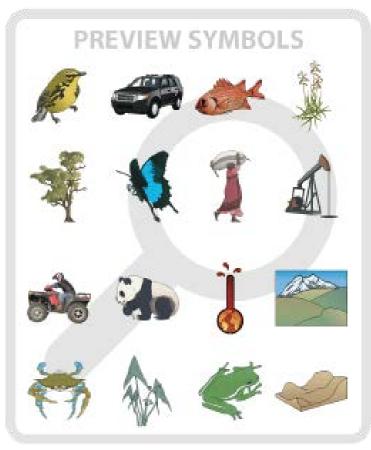






#### IAN is creating a global symbol language





236 countries

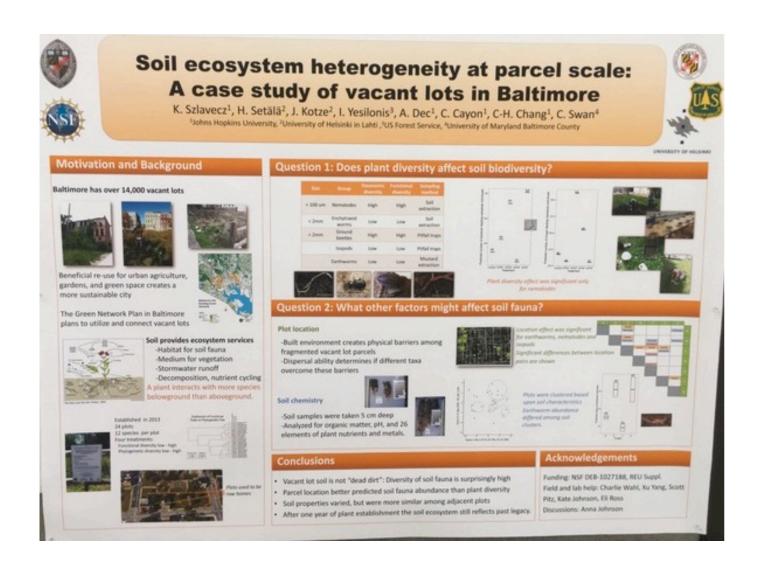
2925 symbols

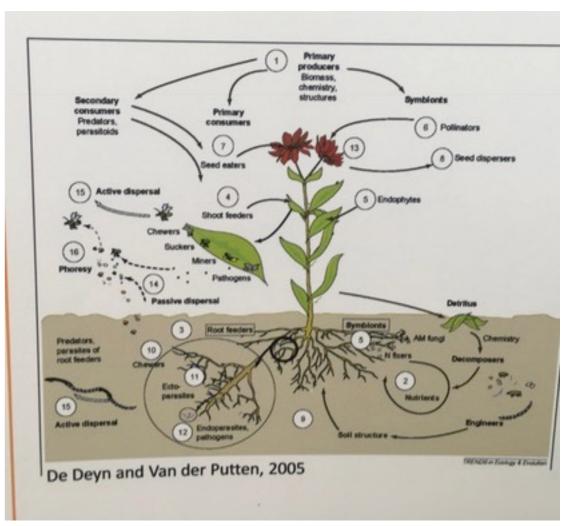
Over 92,000 users





### You can make your own diagrams









## Visual literacy for science communication

- 1. There are many types of visuals that can be used
- 2. A diversity of visual elements enhances the appeal
- 3. Creation, selection, and editing of visual elements is important
- 4. Visual elements need to be fully integrated with text
- 5. Color selection = internally consistent & cognitively aware
- 6. Visual elements should be able to stand alone
- 7. Reduce extraneous information (e.g., chart junk, map junk)





# There are many forms of visuals that can be used, including **photos**, **conceptual diagrams**, maps, graphs, videos

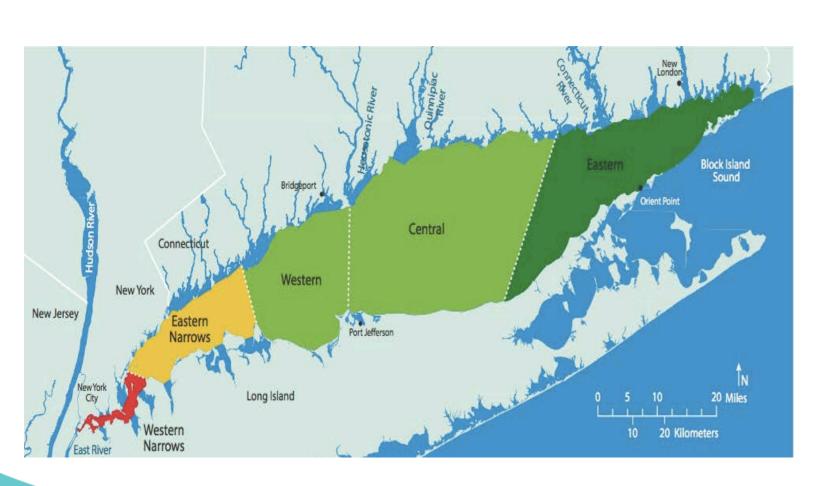


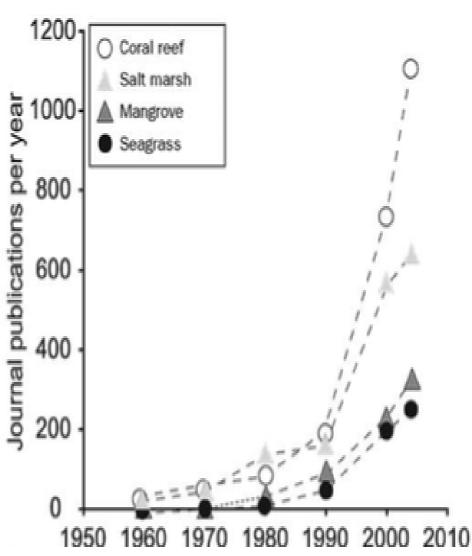






# There are many forms of visuals that can be used, including photos, conceptual diagrams, maps, graphs, videos









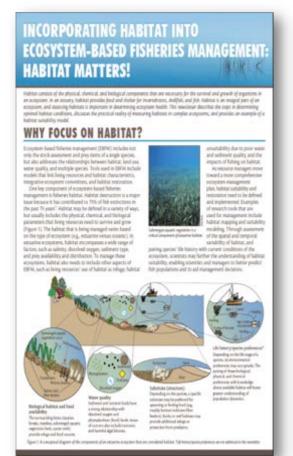
# There are many forms of visuals that can be used, including photos, conceptual diagrams, maps, graphs, videos

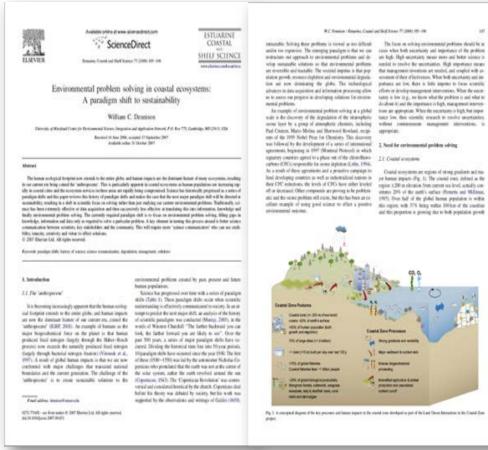


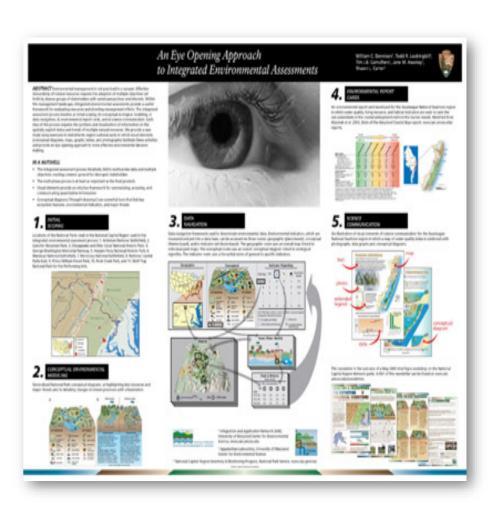




# A diversity of visual elements enhances the appeal of science communication



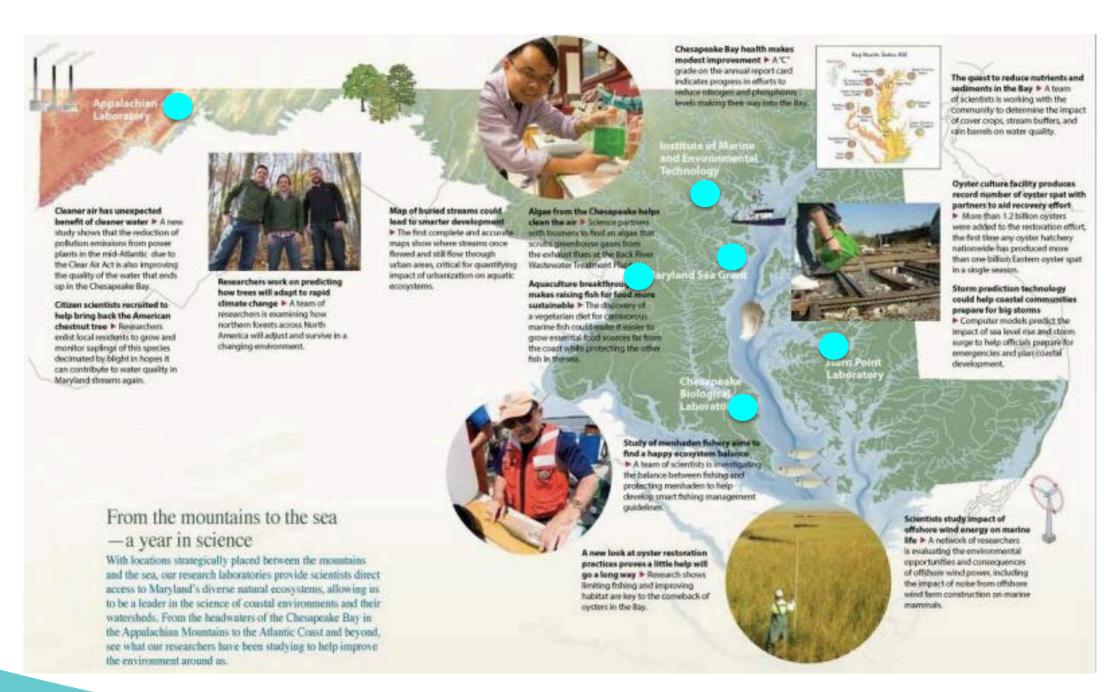








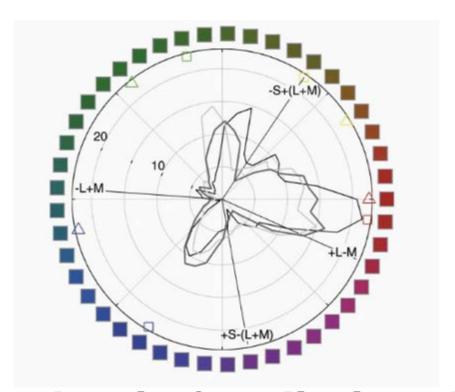
## Visual elements need to be fully integrated with text







### Color selection is crucial



#### **Neural basis for distinct hues**

- Red hues lead to highest MRI brain responses
- Green and blue hues stimulate activity to lesser degree

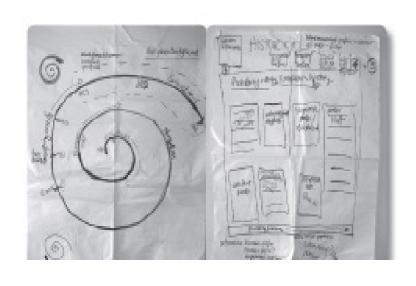
Stoughton and Conway 2008





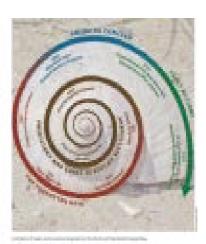


### Care should be given to the creation, selection, and editing of visual elements















## Visual elements should be able to stand alone (captions & legends)

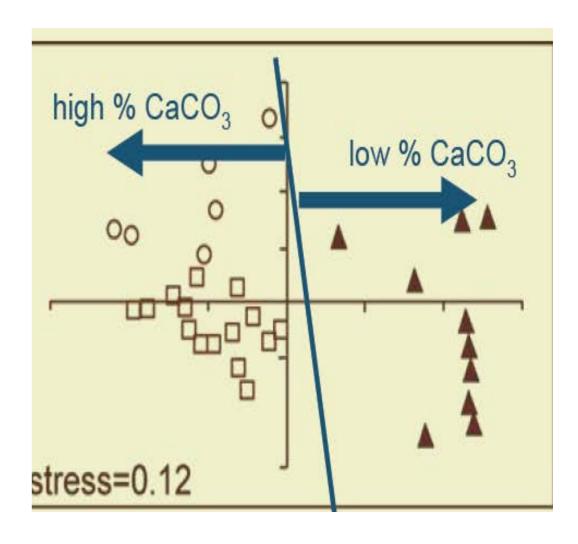






# Reduce extraneous information (e.g., chart junk, map junk) to allow focus on content of interest









#### Narrative structure

- Evolution from key words → active titles → word clouds → narrative structure
- Good science narrative requires synthesis, audience awareness, elements of story, solid scientific basis
- Narrative structure is not facilitated by the standard scientific publishing format: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion





### Began using conclusions as titles

Moreton Bay Region . .

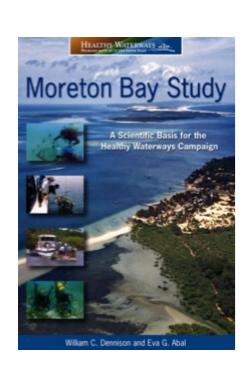


Table Chapter 1:	Of Conclusions  Conclusions and Recommendations		
	Overall Recommendations		
	RESTORE degraded areas and protect intact areas.		
	STRATEGY:	Reduce nutrient loads (particularly nitrogen) by sewage treatment upgrades.  Reduce sediment and nutrient loads with stormwater controls, riparian revegetation, and catchment management.	
		RESEARCH:	Investigate causes and nature of environmental degradation, as well as investigating restoration techniques.
	MONITORING:	Assess ecological outcomes of nutrient removal from sewage, stormwater controls and other management actions.	
Chapter 2:	Moreton Bay Study		
	Staged approach		
	Simultaneous Science and management		
	Scientific rigour		
	Linked scientific tasks		
		alisation	



Chapter 3:



#### Conclusions evolved into 'active titles'

CHAPTER 5: NUTRIENTS	93
Nutrients limit plant growth when excess light is available	94
Various nutrient sources	96
Nutrient supply rates are more important than concentrations	97
Biological processes dominate nitrogen cycle; Erosion and deposition dominate phosphorus cycle	98
Nutrient limitation assessed in 32 freshwater streams	99
70% of freshwater streams demonstrated primary N limitation	100
Freshwater, estuarine and marine waterways respond primarily to nitrogen addition	101
Measuring nutrient flux from the sediment to the water column	102
Low rates of nutrient flux in streams, estuaries and Bay	103
Denitrification measured in freshwater streams	104
Denitrification rates are spatially variable	105
Ability of denitrification to reduce N load to SEQ streams is low	106
Denitrification efficiency in Moreton Bay influenced by oxygen availability	107
Estuarine denitrification is insignificant	108
Tracing sewage nitrogen using stable isotopes (δ¹5N)	110
Sewage plumes track decrease in nitrogen loads from STP into Moreton Bay	111
Sewage nitrogen in oysters and fish	112
High carbon loads lead to declining water quality	114
Unknown carbon source in the Bremer estuary	115
Virus and bacteria concentrations and production follow nutrient gradients	116





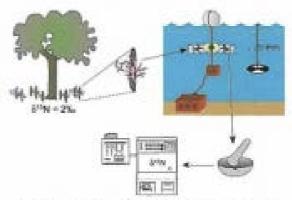
### Typical page with active title

#### Sewage plumes track decrease in nitrogen loads from STP into Moreton Bay

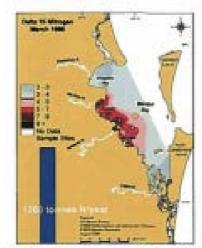
Sewage plumes in Moreton Bay and its river sestuaries, although temporally variable (as previously reported in Dennison and Abal, 1999), can track the extent of nitrogen loads from sewage treatment plants. The intensity and distribution of sewage-derived nitrogen can be mapped using the gradient in 8°N values of macroalgae with distance from sewage nutrient inputs.

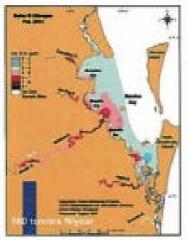
The mapping of sewage plumes in South East Queensland estuarine and marine waters began in 1998 and since 2001 has been conducted annually. Sewage plumes extend into Moreton Bay from the many Sewage Treatment Plants on the Western side of the Bay. The Brisbane River was a major contributor to the Moreton Bay sewage plume in 1998, extending into Bramble and Waterloo Bay. However, since 1998, the spatial extent of the sewage plume in Bramble Bay has been significantly teduced, with the intensity of the sewage signal at the Brisbane River mouth also decreasing from 9 to 5-796s. There also appeared to be little sewage extending southward into Waterloo Bay or into central Moreton Bay.

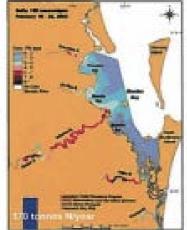
The reduction in the size and intensity of the sewage plume in Bramble may be due to significant upgrades that have occurred to sewage treatment plants in Redcliff and Brisbane Ciry Councils. Natural variation in river flow and nutrient delivery to Moreton Bay between years is also likely to have contributed to observed pattern.



Methodology for tracing Sawage. The macrosigue Caternille ripse, is collected on mangrove presumatophores and deployed in clear chambers at half second depth, and separated to ambient water for four days. Samples are then collected, dried and analysed for 8°N value on a mass spectrometer.





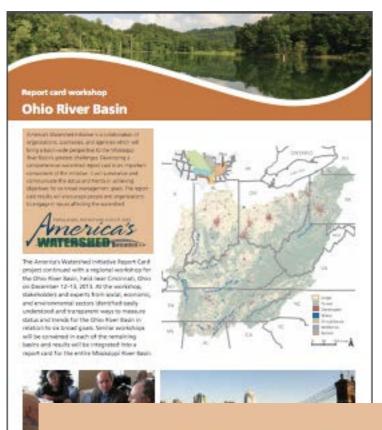


Sewage plume maps generated in 1996 (March), 2001, (February) and 2002 (February) showing that the extent of sewage plumes in Western Moreton Say have decreased over the past five years. This coincides with Sewage Treatment Plant upgrades and the development of management actions to improve water quality in the Bay. Bars indicate the annual nicogen load from Luggage Point and Redolfte Sewage Treatment Plants.





#### Began soliciting key words



Arkansas River & Red River Basins

Anemus Wistested Installer is a collaboration of organizations, businesses, and agencies which will bring a basin-wide presponse with the will summarize the status and bands in achieving objective for ax board management position. The sont card result will account on the Installer in white the will summarize and component of the Installer in activities. The sont card result will be account on the account of the Installer in the sont card is an important component of the Installer in the sont card result will be accounted and treatment and the control of the Installer in the sont card result will be a sont organizations. The sont card result will be a sont organizations. The sont card result will be a sont organizations. The sont card result will be a sont organization or the Arkansas River and Red River Basins, held in Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 34–15, 2014. At the workshop, stakeholders and experts from social, economic, and environmental sectors identified easily understood and transparent ways to measure status and trends for the Arkansas River and Red River Basins in relation to six broad goals. Similar workshops will be convened in each of the remaining basins and results will be

Droughts, reservoirs, and diversity



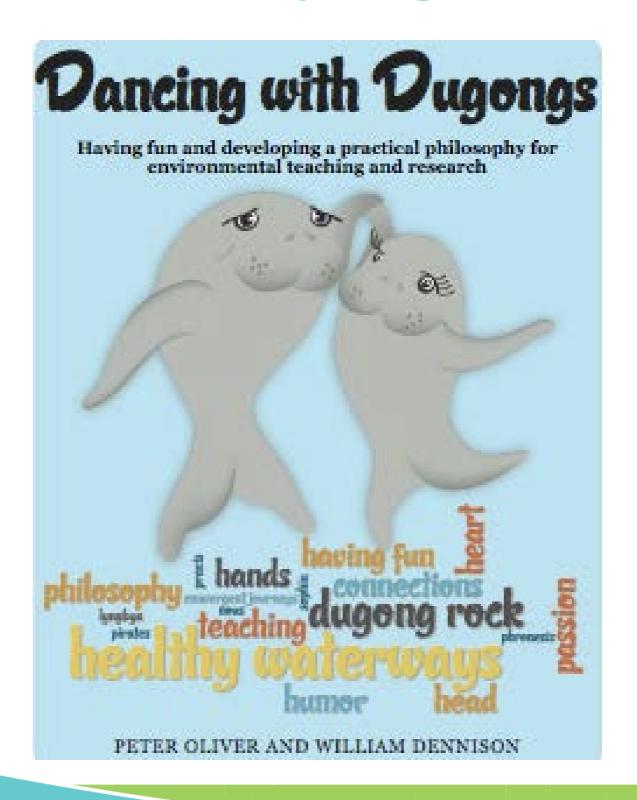
ta Fort of Catoota.

Beautiful, productive, abundant water





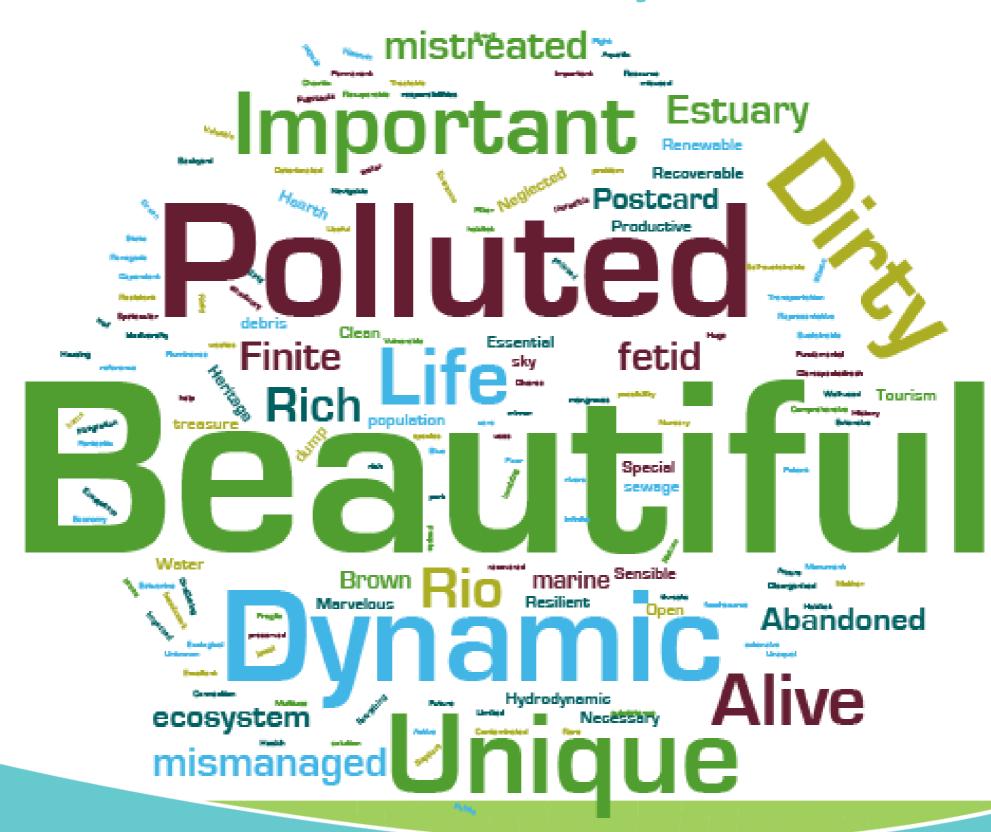
### Started developing word clouds







## Guanabara Bay is . . .



University of Maryland

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



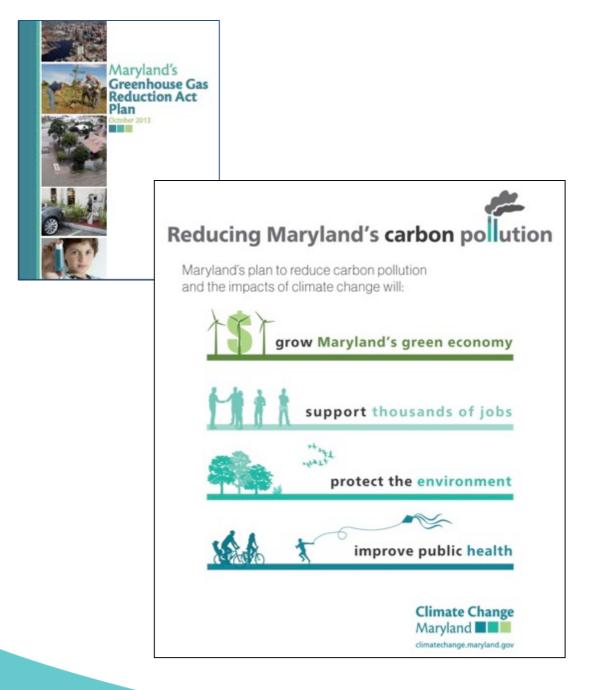
## Darwin Harbour is . . .

sea-level-rise-susceptible mangroves
relatively-unimpacted hotspots
relatively-unimpacted hotspots
challenged
scenic poorly-known challenged
scenic poorly-known challenged changing attractive! huge being-developed-fast diverse sparkling for-the-people undeveloped part-of-darwin's-identity





# Made short declarative statements to accompany graphics



# Climate change is real.

Scientists agree.

It's happening now.
It's harmful and human-caused.

We can make a difference through our actions.







## Randy Olson introduced the ABT format: . . . and . . . but . . . therefore . . .





```
ABT . . . and . . . but . . . therefore. . . AAA . . . and . . . and . . . and . . . DHY . . . despite . . . yet . . . however . . .
```





# Narrative Index = simple quantifiable assessment of narrative structure

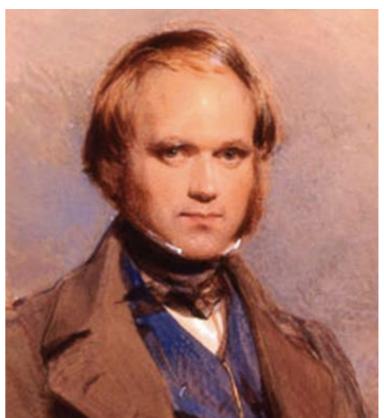
- Number of 'but's vs. number of 'and's in text
- Narrative Index =( # 'but's / # 'and's) x 100
- Rationale; exclusive use of 'and' leads to AAA (boring, repetitious); adding 'but' into sentence creates tension and facilitates ABT (tension and resolution)
- Simple quantitative index

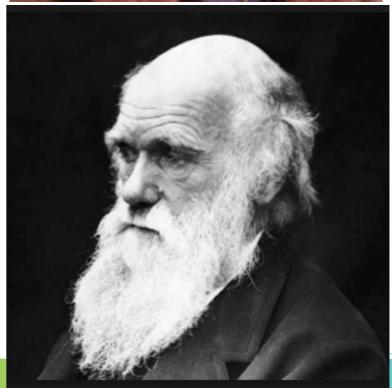




## **Charles Robert Darwin**

- 1809 1882; English
- Influenced by Malthus (An essay on the principle of population), Lyell, Humboldt
- Made extended field trip; 5 years,
   S. America & Galapagos Islands
- Prolific author; numerous books & scientific papers





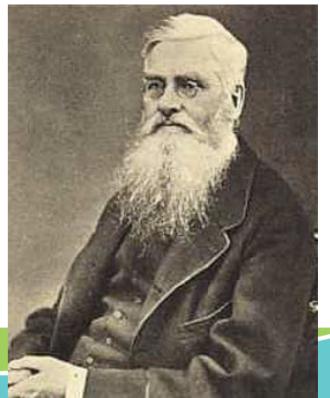




## Alfred Russel Wallace

- 1823 1913; English
- Influenced by Malthus (An essay on the principle of population), Lyell, Humboldt
- Made extended field trips; 4 years
   S. America, 8 years Malay archipelago
- Prolific author; numerous books & scientific papers

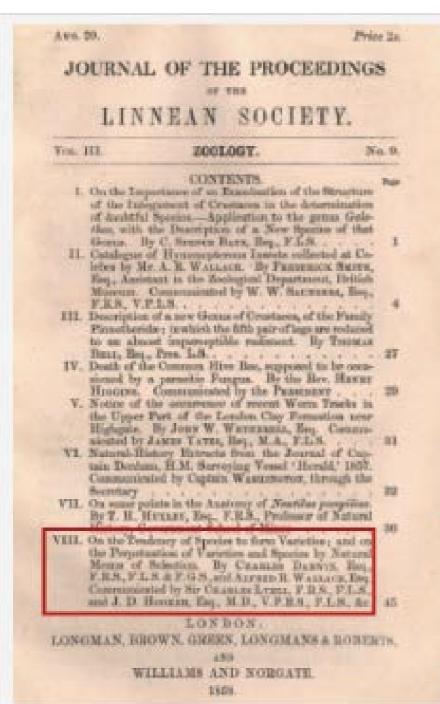








# Simultaneous publication in J Proc Linnean Society; 1858





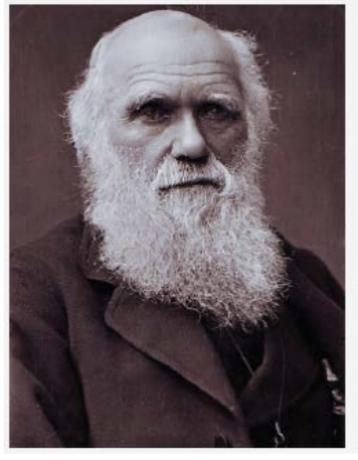
VIII. On the Tendency of Species to form Varieties; and on the Perpetuation of Varieties and Species by Natural Means of Selection. By CHARLES DARWIN, Esq., F.R.S., F.L.S. & F.G.S., and ALFRED R. WALLACE, Esq. Communicated by Sir CHARLES LTELL, F.R.S., F.L.S., and J.D. HOOKER., M.D., V.P.R.S., F.L.S &c.

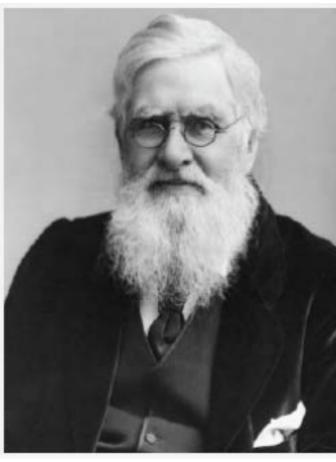




## Controlled 'experiment'

- Same theory (natural selection)
- Both Englishmen; similar age
- Similar influences (e.g., Malthus, Lyell, Humboldt)
- Similar observations (e.g., S. American flora & fauna)
- Published at the same time
- Published in the same journal
- Neither man was present when paper was originally read at the Linnean Society









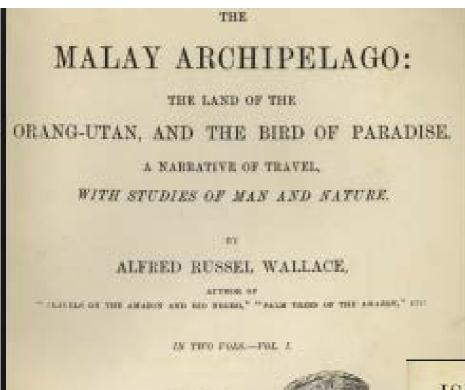
### Wallace vs. Darwin narrative index

- Wallace: "On the Tendency of Varieties to Depart Indefinitely from the Original Type" Narrative Index = 19
- Darwin: "On the Variation of Organic Beings in a state of Nature; on the Natural Means of Selection; on the Comparison of Domestic Races and true Species" Narrative Index = 27
- Darwin: "Abstract from Letter 10/5/1857" Narrative
   Index = 26

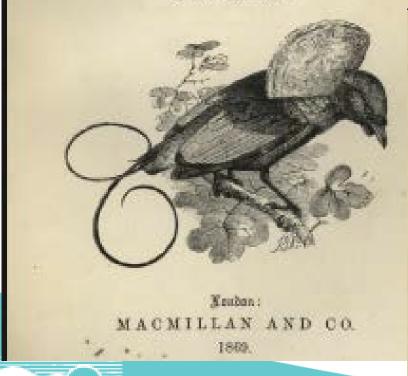




## Wallace: Narrative Index

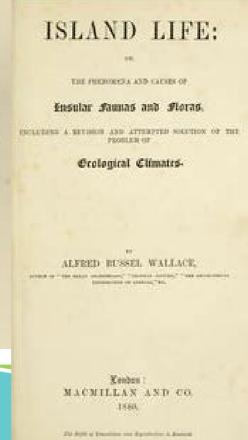


- Malay Vol 1 = 11
- Malay Vol 2 = 12
- Island Life = 14



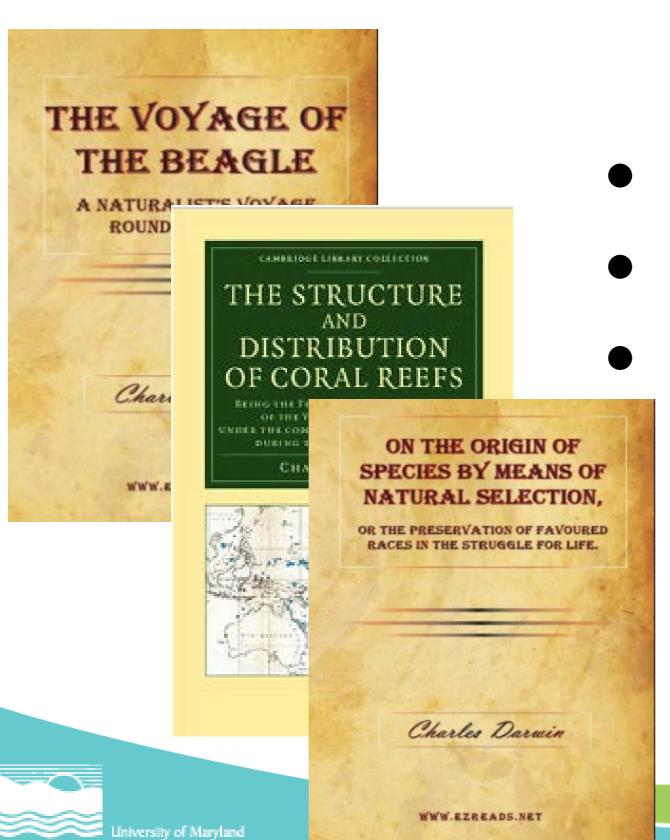
University of Maryland

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## Darwin: Narrative Index



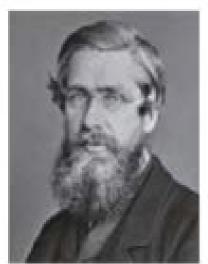
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

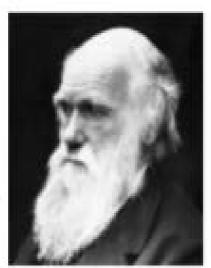
- Voyage = 17
- Coral Reefs = 17
- Origin = 20

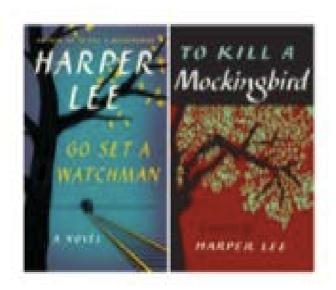


# Narrative structure applies to science, literature and politics

### NARRATIVE MATCHUPS











14 vs 18

17 vs 24

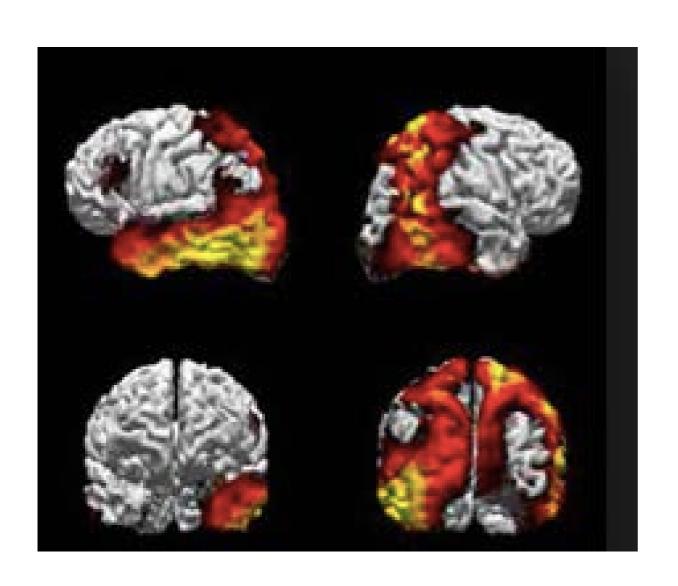
14 vs 28

http://www.scienceneedsstory.com/blog/the-narrative-index/





## Narrative affects neural activity



### **Neural basis for narrative**

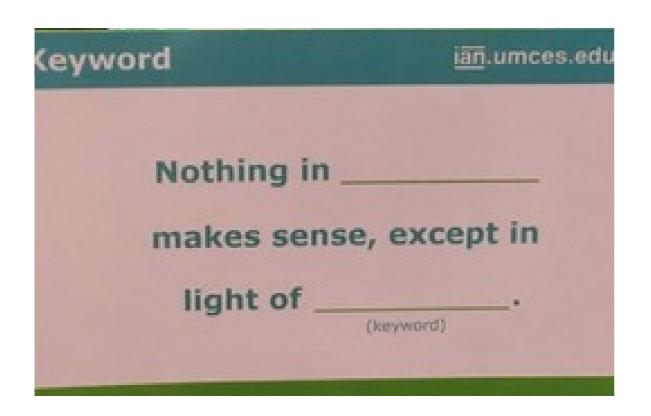
- Narrative activates the brain
- Narrative unifies the thinking of a group

Hasson in Olson 2015





## ABT statements and key word identification



ian.umces.edu





# Narrative literacy for science communication

- 1. Storytelling can be a powerful tool for science communication
- 2. Selection of key words can enhance science communication
- 3. The ABT format provides compelling narrative structure
- 4. Active titles enhance comprehension
- 5. Science narratives should focus on informing, not persuading audience
- 6. Simplify & define terms, avoid jargon, but do NOT 'dumb it down' instead, 'raise the bar'
- 7. Provide context; 'why should the audience care?'

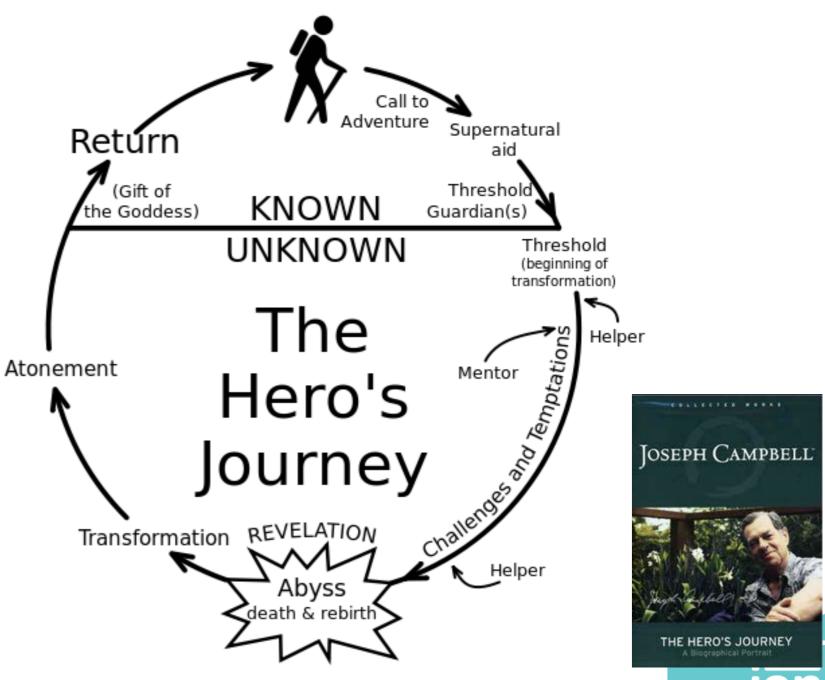




# Storytelling can be a powerful tool for science communication (using causality, temporality and character)

- Causality: Causeeffect relationships inferred
- Temporality:
   Timeline, context
   dependent
- Character:
   People involved

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# Selection of key words can enhance science communication

Randy Olson's Dobzhansky template:

Nothing in the \_\_\_\_\_ makes sense, except in light of \_\_\_\_\_.

Nothing in geology makes sense, except in light of plate tectonics. Nothing in ecology makes sense, except in light of evolution.

Transdisciplinary science is









# The ABT format ("... and ... but ... therefore ..." template) provides compelling narrative structure

"Stories are fun

And

may seem complex

But

they all have a similar structure

Therefore

they lend themselves to templates."





## Active titles enhance comprehension

### Erosion process tracing confirms model predictions

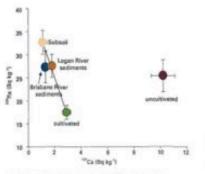
Sediment tracing methods provide us with an independent means of testing the model predictions, Surface soil samples were collected throughout the catchments from cultivated and uncultivated lands, and from subsoils in gullies and stream banks. These source types can be distinguished by measuring concentrations of cesium-137 (157Cs) and radium-226 (276Ra). 157Cs is a product of atmospheric nuclear weapons testing that occurred in the 1950-70s. It accumulates in surface soil, and labels sediment eroded from topsoils. 22th Ra is a naturally occurring radio-nuclide that can occur in reduced concentrations in cultivated soils, possibly due to leaching. Together, these two radionuclides can give a good indication of the origin of sediment from the landscape.

Sediment samples collected from the lower reaches of the Brisbane and Logan Rivers upstream of the tidal estuaries, are likely to be well mixed during transport, and so should represent sediment delivered from many sources in their respective



radionuclides can give a good indication about where sediment has originated from in the landscape.

catchments. The mean 137Cs and 236Ra in the sediment sample values lie between the mean cultivated surface soil and subsoil values, while the mean uncultivated surface soil value lies well away from this group. Assuming that the mean sediment concentrations are a linear mix of the two primary sources, then we can estimate that 75 ± 25% of the sediments originate from subsoil (channel) erosion in the Brisbane and Logan catchments, while the remaining 25 ± 25% comes from cultivated surface soils. Note that these results have a relatively high statistical uncertainty (± 25%), which means that the variation in the contribution of surface soils and subsoils to river sediments is relatively high. On average, the subsoil contribution to the Logan and Brisbane Rivers will vary from 50-100%. These results do not exclude the likelihood that some sediment is also coming from uncultivated land, however, the contribution is relatively small.



Average radium (\*\*Re) and cesium (\*\*\*Cs) values from cultivated and uncultivated soils (hillslope erosion) and subsoils (channel erosion), compared with average values obtained from sediment in the lower Brisbane and Logan Rivers. These results show that the river sedments mainly originate from subsoil erosion (75%), with most of the remaining sediment coming from erosion of cultivated soil.









# Science narratives should focus on informing, not persuading audience

### Inform

- Instructs, explains, describes, etc.
- Gives something to audience
- Tells them
- Information can persuade



### Persuade

- Changes attitudes, beliefs, etc.
- Gets something from audience
- Sells them
- Persuasion can inform





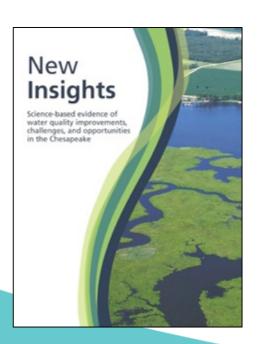


# Simplify & define terms, avoid jargon, but do NOT 'dumb it down' – instead, 'raise the bar'



Upgrades in both nitrogen and phosphorus wastewater treatment result in rapid local water quality improvements

- Upgrades to wastewater treatment plants are effective restoration practices.
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrades result in decreased nitrogen and phosphorus loadings to the Chesapeake Bay.
- Reduced nitrogen and phosphorus loads lead to improved water quality and in some cases increased submerged aquatic vegetation.





## Many practices provide initial water quality improvements in runoff; however, full benefits to stream conditions can be delayed

'Lag time' is a delayed response time between implementing best management practices and observing full water quality improvements.

 Lag times are affected by groundwater age, sediment movement, phosphorus storage in sediments, and riparian buffer age.

 The effect of lag times will vary depending on the types of best management practices and where they are implemented.

## suges





# Provide context; 'why should the audience care?'



People, Trees, and Power: Human Dimensions of Roadside Tree Management to Reduce Power Outages

STOR//WISE
stormwise.uconn.edu

Daniel C. Hale and Anita T. Morzillo

University of Connecticut, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, Storrs, CT



A tree fallen on power lines in Glastonbury, central Connecticut, after the 2011 October Snowstorm.

### INTRODUCTION

Stormwise is a vegetation management program aiming to reduce the risk of tree-related storm damage to power lines. Tree trimming, removal, and planting directly affects places where people live. Therefore, this study seeks to understand public attitudes lowerd the program.

Past research suggests that attitudes toward natural resources vary from urban to rural areas. At a household level, trees can have a strong effect on people's experiences. Therefore, this study will evaluate how these landscape factors influence attitudes toward vegetation management.



Stormwise envisions a roadside forest with widers snaced trees that can grow resistant to wind

### SURVEY

Self-administered surveys were used to measure attitudes toward Stormwise vegetation management. In February 2017, we mailed 3,600 surveys to a random sample of Connecticut residents in two areas, and across an urban-rural gradient. Questions address:

- · Experience with storms and power outages
- Attitudes toward utility vegetation management
- Ecosystem services and disservices related to trees
- New roadside tree management strategies
- Sociodemographic information

So far, more than 750 surveys have been received (21%).



An excerpt from the survey mailed to Connecticut residents.

### 

Top: Tree cover within 35 m of road centerlines. Bottom: Census blocks by urban-rural index. 0 = rural; 1 = urban.

### SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Neighborhood characteristics will be mapped and quantified around each survey respondent's address. We will evaluate trends in resident attitudes in relation to two landscape factors:

- Trees contribute to neighborhood character and may be altered by vegetation management. To show the roadside forest in a household context, tree cover will be mapped within various distances of from the household and road.
- Differences exist among humans, forests, and vegetation management along an urban-rural gradient. An index is being developed to assess attitudes along this gradient.

### MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- Survey data will be used to explore pathways toward adopting Stormwise tree management strategies statewide.
- Combined with survey data, spetial analysis will provide insight for developing management strategies targeting people in urban versus rural locations.

This project is supported by the Everanuos Energy Center and the University of Connections. Use of human subjects was approved by the University of Connecticut Institutional America Sound (Int. Id-DOT).

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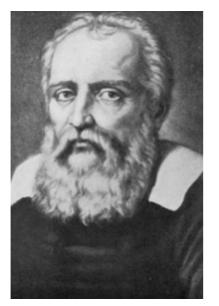
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using

# Paradigm shifts occur with good science communication



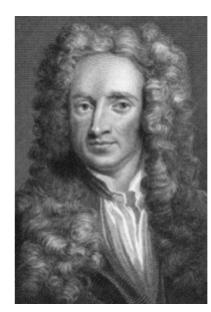
Astronomy



**Physics** 



Astronomy



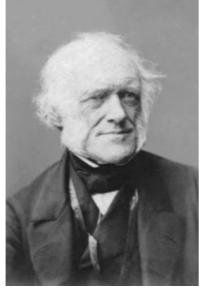
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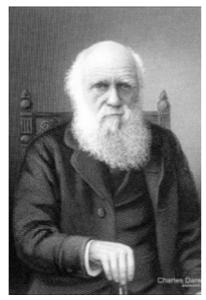
Biology



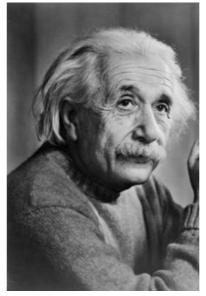
Chemistry



Geology



**Evolution** 



**Physics** 



Biology



# Paradigm shift to sustainability leaders





