



Storytelling: My research contribution

The purpose of an experiment report paper is to inform an academic audience about the contribution to science you have made with your experiment. The scientific community will only know about your study because of this text. In it, you not only need to explain what you did but also emphasize why this study was undertaken and how your results are related to those of other studies. In order to be convincing, you tell a coherent story with a clear message. The following questions can help you clarify your story.

Answer the questions spontaneously and in complete sentences. You do not have to find the final answer straight away but can always add to this brainstorming later, repeat it or discuss it with others.

1. Why did I conduct this study?

2. How is this study linked to other results? What is the state of knowledge about my topic in existing literature?

3. What is new? What is special about this study?

4. Which data do I want to present in my paper? Which results are central for me? How can I interpret them?

5. Which research question do these results present an answer to?

6. Which main answer to my research question do I want to give?

7. What is the central message I want to send to my readers?

This exercise was developed based on the brainstorming presented by Eva Müller in „Schreiben in Naturwissenschaften und Medizin“ (Paderborn, 2013, p. 15ff). Translation from German by Stefanie Everke Buchanan.