

My approach to writing journal papers

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A good paper tells an interesting, relevant and robust scientific story. I follow these steps when writing:

1. Write down **the main Take-Home-Message (THM)**
2. Write down a **title** that is as general as your THM allows
3. Outline the whole paper by writing down **one mini-THM for each paragraph** (this will become the first sentence of each paragraph)
4. **Add details** (incl. supporting statements, references) to each paragraph using bullet points (not full text)
5. Mirror the contents of **your introduction and your discussion** sections
6. **Design your figures** (even before you have all results) [For help see Kelleher and Wagener, 2011, EM&S]

Then write down the paper in **short, active sentences** ('We found...') using the **minimum amount of text** needed to tell your scientific story

You research should be reproducible, **but not** through writing a very long and detailed paper!

There are rather three Os that make your research in hydrology more reproducible [Hutton et al., 2016, WRR]:

Open software

(incl. open workflows)
[e.g. Pianosi et al. 2015, EM&S]

Open data

[e.g. Gleeson et al. 2011, GRL;
Addor et al., 2017, HESS]

Open system
conceptualizations
(or open perceptual
models)

[e.g. Wagener et al., WIRES
Water, in Preparation]