How to write an introduction I

• Suggested format
  – General background (1-2 paragraphs)
  – More specific background (2-3 paragraphs)
  – Motivation for the experiment (1 paragraph)
    • What remains unknown?
    • What is gained by performing experiment?
  – Short description of experiment (1 paragraph)
    • What are the hypotheses?
    • How will the experiment be conducted?
Let’s pretend…..

• Pretend that experiment is novel
  – One idea… we’re testing blood of genetically engineered sheep…..
  – Make up data from other (non-genetically engineered sheep)
General background (1-2 paragraphs)

- Function of red blood cells (RBCs)
- Shape and structure of RBCs
- RBCs in blood
  - Definition of hyper, hypo, isotonic
  - Reaction of RBCs to solutions of varying tonicity
More specific background (2-3 paragraphs)

- The planet Ajklfakshdflakhs
  - Discovery in 2013
  - Extreme conditions on this planet
    - Huge seasonal variations in rainfall, causing highly variable water availability, and salinity of water sources
- Discovery of sheep on Ajklfakshdflakhs
  - How do they survive in such wacky conditions?
Motivation for experiment (1 paragraph)

• Could ability of RBCs to tolerate different plasma osmolarity levels explain their survival?
  – Describe plasma osmolarity of Earth Sheep blood.

• Alternate hypothesis: sheep on this crazy planet do other things to regulate plasma osmolarity
  – Kidneys, salt glands, etc.…

• Implication of this experiment
  – What will be the overall impact of this experiment???
Short description of experiment (1 paragraph)

• Just use a few sentences
• Keep things very general
  – No details (save that for the Methods section)
• In a sentence or two, explain what each outcome of the experiment will tell us…
How to write an introduction II

• Overall consideration
  – Ultimately, think of your audience – don’t think about what Prof. Jay wants
What is happening next week?

• Quiz #1
  – At beginning of lab
    • 20-25 minutes
  – Look over last week’s lab (#1)
  – Read next week’s lab (#2)

• Lab #2
What is due in two weeks?

• Tutorial 2 questions
• Key principles for next week’s lecture
• Introduction to cell volume experiment
  – You must turn it in, but it is not graded.
END