Exercise for workshop 1: Mentoring emerging writers

Introduction

Sequencing
1. What is the main point – the key idea – of this paper? Where is it placed?
2. What is the puzzle/gap/claim of this paper? How is it expressed in the introduction? Where is it?
3. What questions are answered in this introduction? (what work does this section do?)
4. What order are these questions placed in?

Establishing relationships
5. Who is the target reader? What level of knowledge is assumed? (how do you know?)
6. How is the reader engaged? E.g., does the author use any rhetorical devices (mystery, suspense, metaphor)?
7. How are other authors used in this section (e.g. to support a claim, to provide a platform, to introduce a debate?)
8. How many references are used?

Style
9. Look at two paragraphs: where is the main idea placed in the paragraph?
10. How long are the sentences? How complex? (Why?)
11. What can we say about the way ideas are laid down in the sentence (where is the subject – active or passive?) (Why?).
12. Circle the verbs – what kinds of verbs are used (why?)
13. What tense is this section in?
14. How does the writer develop tension?

Method

Sequencing
1. Is the main idea referred to in this section? How and where?
2. What questions are answered here? (what work does this section do?)
3. What order are the questions placed in?

Establishing Relationships
4. Who is the target reader? What level of knowledge is assumed? (how do you know?)
5. Does the author use any rhetorical devices (mystery, suspense, metaphor) to engage the reader?
6. How are other authors used in this section (e.g. to support a claim, to provide a platform, to introduce a debate?)
7. How many references are used?
8. It is said that a method section should provide enough detail for another specialist to replicate the study. Has the author done this? Do you think the description here accurately represents what happened?
Style
9. Look at two paragraphs: where is the main idea placed in the paragraph?
10. How long are the sentences? How complex? (Why?)
11. What can we say about the way ideas are laid down in the sentence (where is the subject – active or passive?). (Why?)
12. Circle the verbs – what kinds of verbs are used (why?)
13. What tense is this section in?
14. How do figures/graphs relate to the text?

Discussion

Central claim
1. What is the central claim – the key idea – of this paper? (summarise in one sentence)
2. Where is this claim made?
3. Is it hedged? Why and how?

Sequencing
4. Is the main idea referred to in this section? How and where?
5. What questions are answered here? (what work does this section do?)
6. What order are the questions placed in?

Establishing Relationships
7. Who is the target reader? What level of knowledge is assumed? (how do you know?)
8. How is the reader engaged? Does the author use any rhetorical devices (mystery, suspense, metaphor)?
9. How are other authors used in this section (e.g. to support a claim, to provide a platform, to introduce a debate?)
10. How many references are used?

Style
11. Look at two paragraphs: where is the main idea placed in the paragraph?
12. How long are the sentences? How complex? (Why?)
13. What can we say about the way ideas are laid down in the sentence (where is the subject – active or passive?). (Why?)
14. Circle the verbs – what kinds of verbs are used (why?)
15. What tense is this section in?
16. Would you consider this section to be persuasive? If so, how?