Reviews in Computational Biology

5. Editing

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The Introduction

- Set the context from general to specific
  - Show that the research area is important/interesting/relevant.
- Establish a niche
  - Show need for your work (the review)
- Occupy the niche
  - Announce your main point
  - Indicate structure of article

The Main Body

• Use subheadings for each section
  • One sentence summary/conclusion
  • Helps non-linear reading
• If appropriate, use a figures and/or tables
  • Review figs are often schema/cartoons
  • Use caption to make them self-descriptive
The Conclusion

- Specific ➔ general
  - Mini summary
  - Broader implications, future directions
Improve Flow

• **Start each paragraph with a topic sentence**
  It signals paragraph content to the reader

• **Improve cohesion**
  Connect sentences through conjunctions, parallel structures, repeated keywords, pronouns, “old-new” pattern, etc.

• **Remove unneeded/redundant words**
Final checks

- **Spelling**: use automated spell-checker (e.g. `ispell`) and proofread your text carefully.

- **Verify one more time**
  - that references are accurate and complete
  - that each claim backed by citation
  - that your narrative is coherent
  - that the article meets editorial policy (in particular length requirements)

- **Ask a colleague for feedback on draft** (thank for his/her help in Acknowledgement section)
Exercises