

## KT FieldSchool: Plain Language Communication Activity

November 22, 2022

### Step 1:

Option 1. Come up with a story idea in your field of research and imagine you're pitching this idea to a group of your peers, perhaps for a specialized journal. Write a three to five-sentence description of your research and story idea, keeping in mind that you want to make a good impression on your advisor and fellow academics (so make sure to use lots of specialist language and jargon!).

Option 2. Go to an academic journal you're most familiar with and select an abstract with heavy specialist language that you understand but that most or all of the other members of your group do not.

Option 3. Download and read as much of this journal article as possible:

<https://journals.humankinetics.com/view/journals/ssj/aop/article-10.1123-ssj.2022-0095/article-10.1123-ssj.2022-0095.xml?content=abstract>

### Step 2:

Option 1: Select one person to read their story idea out loud. The group members who are NOT in the immediate field and/or are unfamiliar with the specific jargon and specialist language used will now write 3-5 sentences of what you think the presenter was trying to say. Don't ask the presenter to explain or don't google – if you're unsure, just take your best guess.

Option 2: Select one person to read the journal abstract out loud. The group members who are NOT in the immediate field and/or are unfamiliar with the specific jargon and specialist language used will now write 3-5 sentences of what you think the presenter was trying to say. Don't ask the presenter to explain or don't google – if you're unsure, just take your best guess.

Option 3: Download and read as much of this CTV News article as possible:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sports/qatar-s-decision-to-host-world-cup-denounced-as-sportswashing-by-skeptics-1.6155311>

**Step 3:**

In Options 1 and 2, group members who tried to interpret the jargon-filled story ideas and journal abstracts can share what they wrote and compare notes with the person who read the story ideas or journal abstract.

Option 3 members can share their thoughts on the readability of the journal article versus the CTV news article.

1. Journal article is more dense than CTV.
2. Heavy in jargon that requires technical expertise to understand. CTV article more sensational in writing style.
- 3.