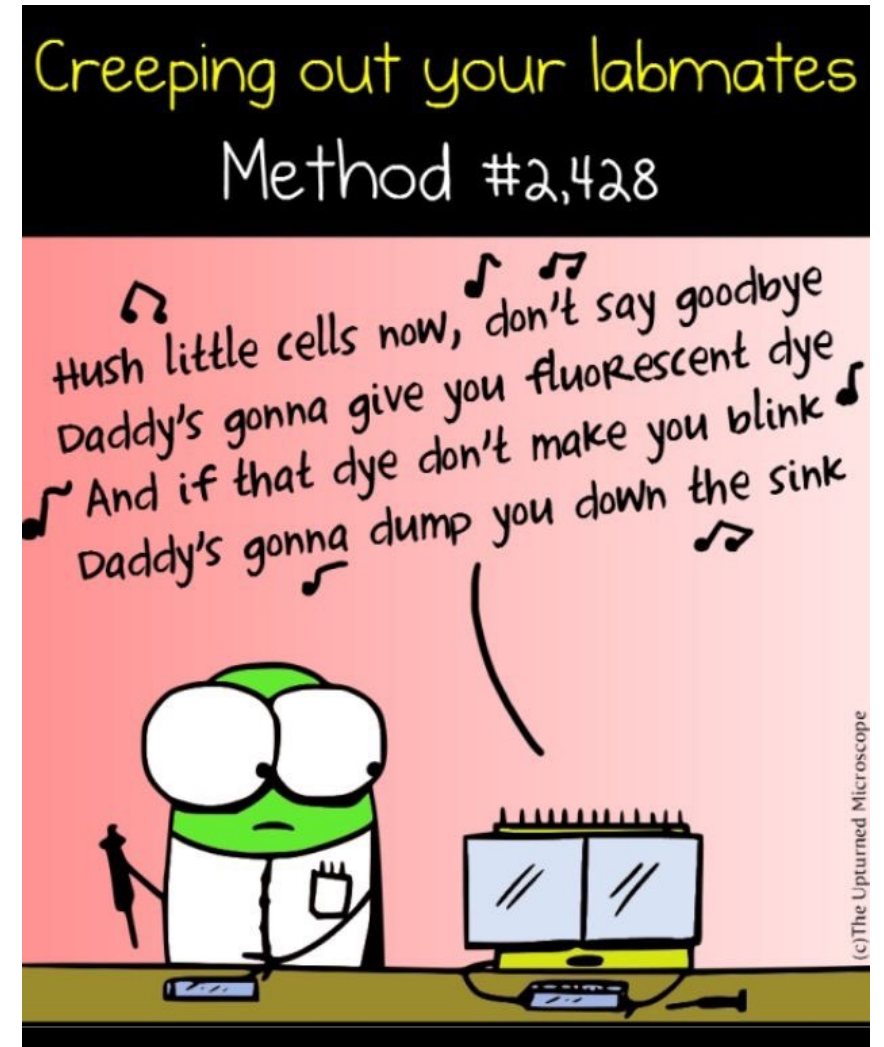


M1D2: Prepare and treat cells for γ -H2AX experiment

1. Prelab
2. Treat and fix MEF cells for H2AX assay
3. Work on Background and Motivation section

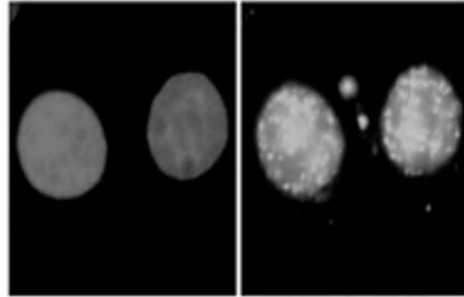


What are we studying in Mod 1 and why?

- Research question: Does **exposure to As inhibit repair of H₂O₂-induced DNA damage**, raising the possibility that combined exposure is an important risk to public health?
- Why are we interested in DNA Damage?
- Why are interested in arsenic?
- Why would we use H₂O₂ to induce DNA Damage?

Mod1 Overview (AKA: how we approach our research question)

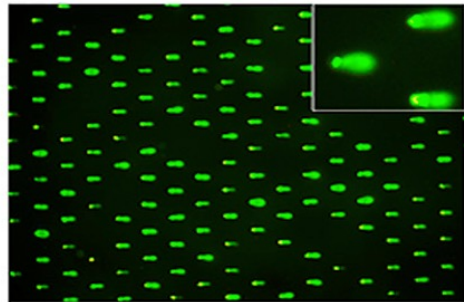
Last lab:



1. Use repair foci experiment to measure DNA breaks

- Examine effect of H_2O_2 +/- As on double strand DNA breaks by measuring γH2AX foci formation

This lab:



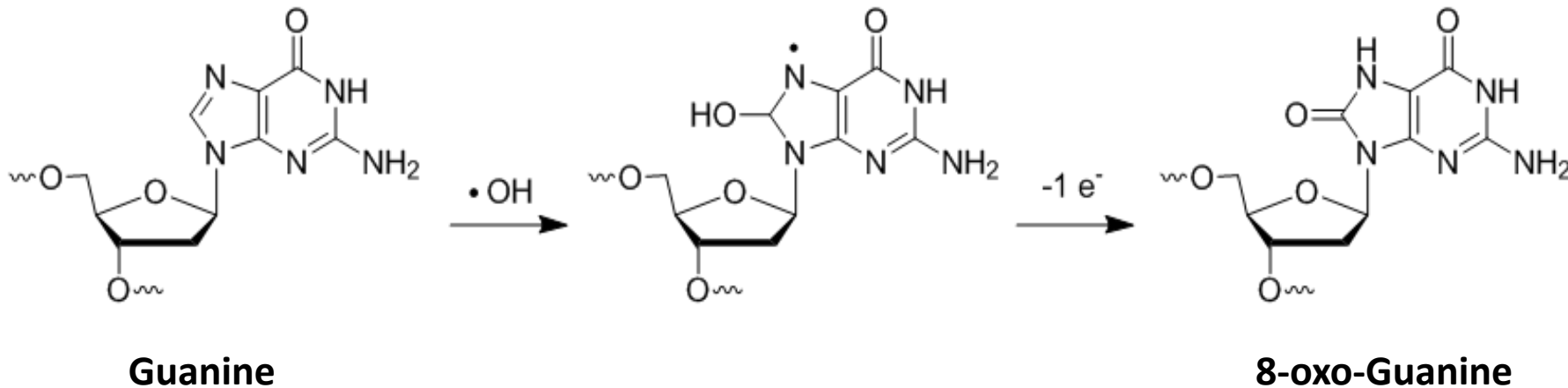
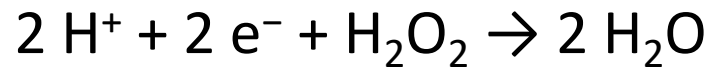
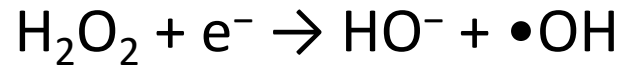
2. Use high-throughput genome damage assay to measure DNA damage

- Measure effects of H_2O_2 +/- As on DNA damage by measuring DNA migration in agarose matrix

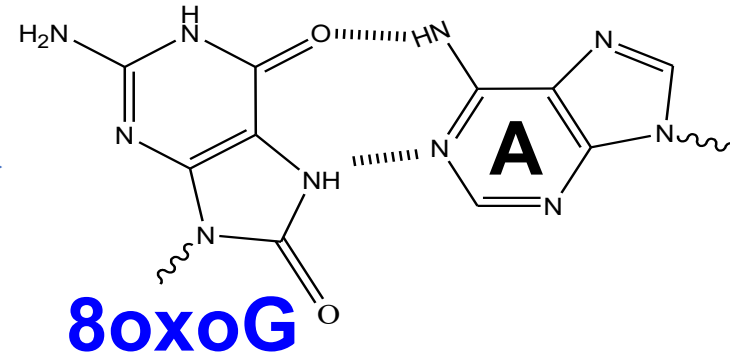
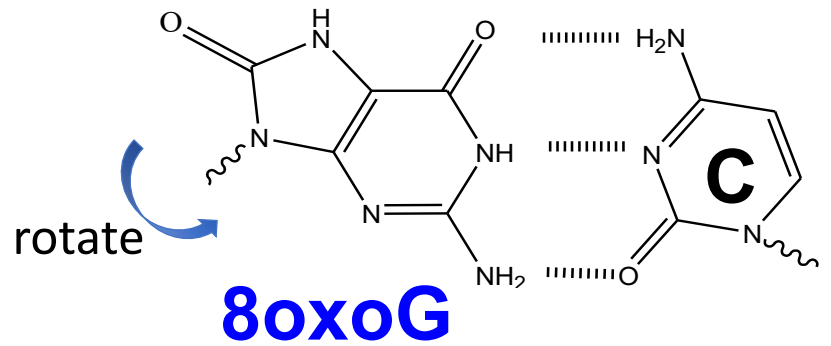
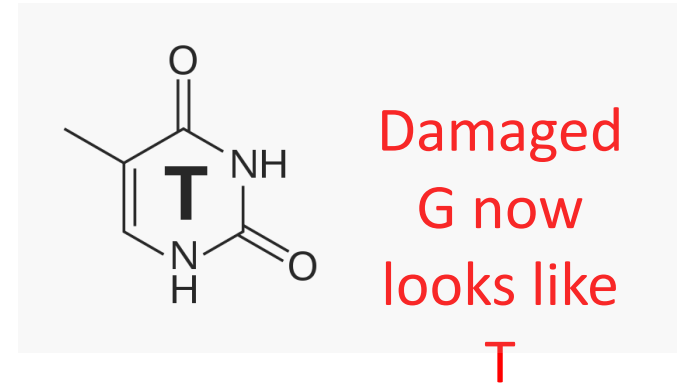
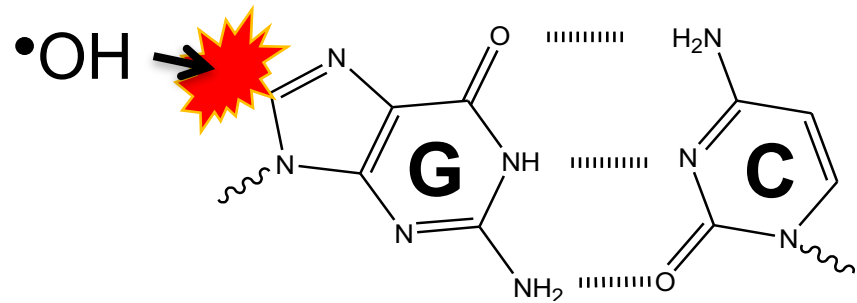
Next lab:

How does H₂O₂ damage DNA?

By producing Reactive Oxygen Species



How does H₂O₂ damage DNA?

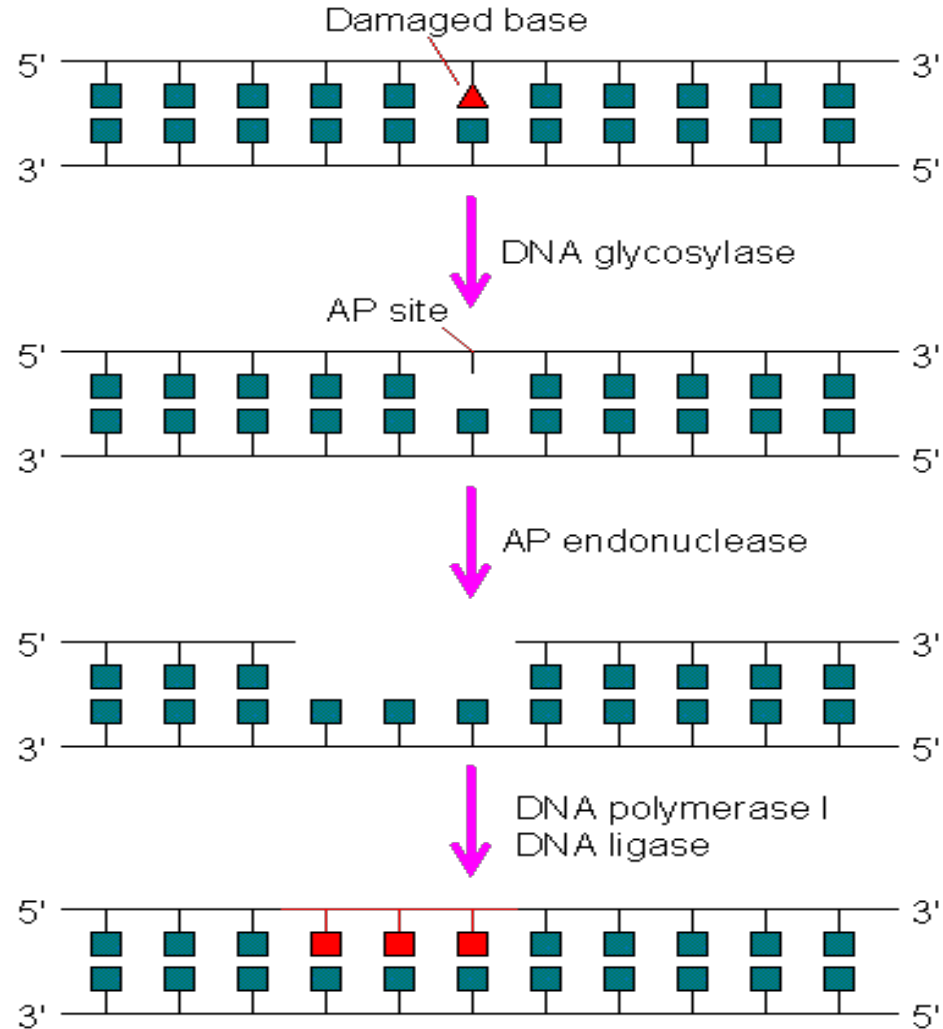


Mutation if replicated



How do cells repair oxidative DNA Damage?

Typically, the BER pathway



How do we look at DNA damage in intact cells?

Look for γ -H2AX foci

H₂O₂ can cause damage to DNA, resulting in a damaged base



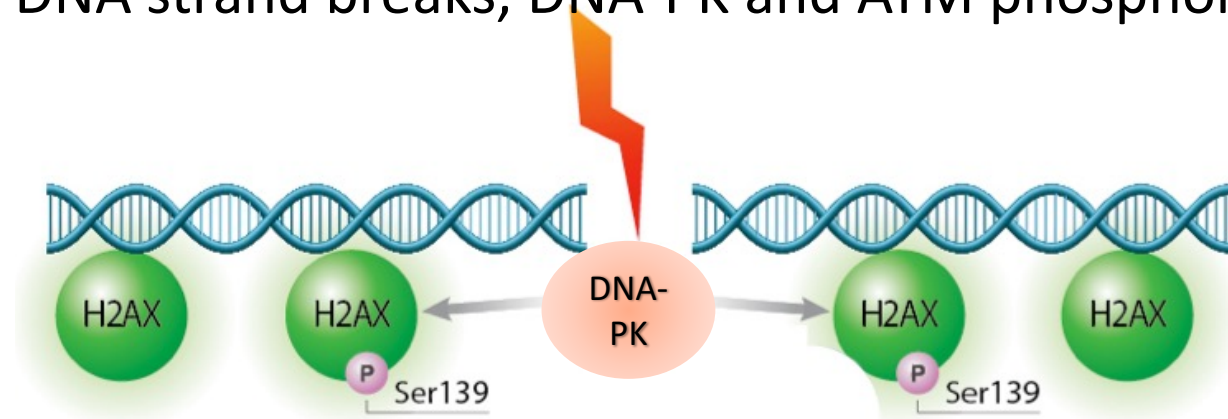
That damage causes a single strand break as cell tries to repair the DNA



Multiple single strand breaks cause double strand breaks



At DNA strand breaks, DNA-PK and ATM phosphorylate the histone H2AX



We can identify the frequency of these breaks as a measure of DNA damage

Treatment conditions for this experiment

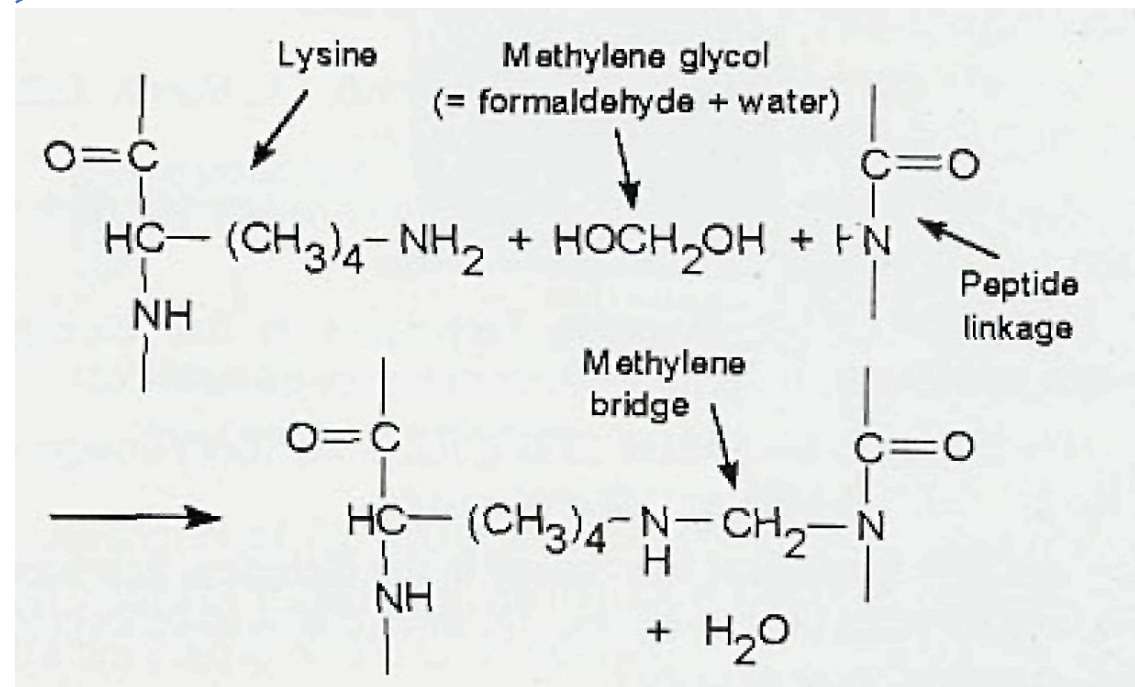
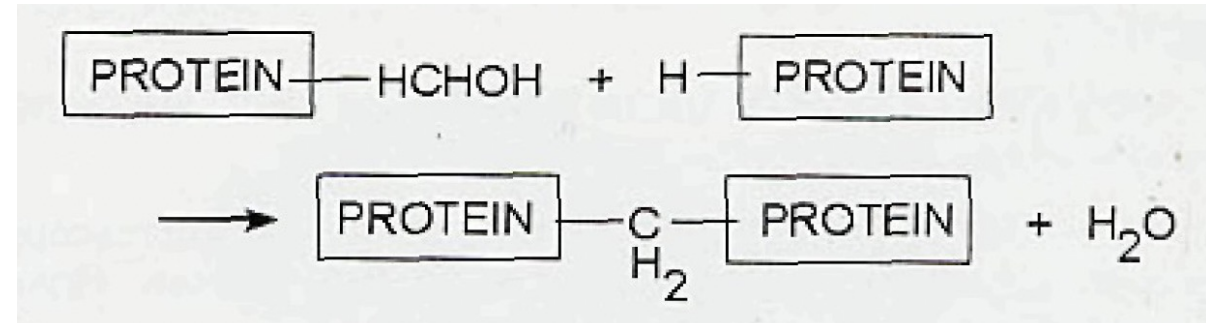
- Goal: identify any additive effect pretreatment with As has on H₂O₂ induced DNA damage
 - Treat cells with As for 2 hours, then treat cells with H₂O₂ for 30 minutes

Experimental Condition

Control Conditions

Fixing cells with paraformaldehyde

- Formaldehyde is a chemical crosslinker
 - Paraformaldehyde is the polymer version—depolymerize into formaldehyde with heat or basic conditions
- Commonly used in cell and tissue microscopy
 - Crosslinking of proteins will “fix” samples in place for static imaging
 - Can also trap nucleic acids, etc... between crosslinked proteins



Homework discussion

Methods

Pro tips for writing a methods section

Include enough **information to replicate** the experiment

- List manufacturer's name (Company)
- Be **concise and clear** in your description

Use **subsections** with descriptive titles

- Put in logical order, rather than chronological order
- Begin with topic sentence to introduce purpose / goal of each experimental procedure

Use clear and **concise full sentences**

- NO tables or lists, all information should be provided in full sentences and paragraphs
- Write in passive voice and use past tense

Use the most **flexible units**

- Write concentrations (when known) rather than volumes

Eliminate 20.109 specific details

- Example "labeled Row A, Row B..."
- Do not include details about tubes and water!
- Assume reader has some biology experience
- Include parts of the protocol that the teaching faculty completed, but do not say "completed by teaching faculty."

How can you improve this example?

“Cells were grown in 12 mL of DMEM supplemented with FBS. We spun down the cells and counted them with a hemocytometer. Flasks were incubated in 37 C incubator.”

How can you improve this example?

What cells? From where were the cells attained?

How much? What else was added to the media?

“Cells were grown in 12 mL of DMEM supplemented with FBS. We spun

Volume here does not have context as based on the flask used. When might flask / plate size be helpful??

Define all abbreviations and include supplier / manufacturer.

Use passive voice and avoid jargon!

down the cells and counted them with a hemocytometer.

Flasks

Be specific about the purpose of each of the steps used...cells were harvested using centrifugation (be sure to include speed and time) then counted using a hemocytometer. And what else was used? At what final concentration / percent?

Be specific about the subject of each action / step.

were incubated in 37 C incubator.”

Specific location / equipment used is not important, just the temperature conditions. What other growth conditions were maintained?

In lab today

1. Expose As-treated cells to H_2O_2 and fix them for IF staining
2. Talk about purpose and structure of background and motivation following the experiment

DO NOT use the aspirator to remove cell media with Arsenic.
It needs to be collected as hazardous waste!

M1D3HW

1. Work with your lab partner to write methods for M1D1 and M1D2
2. Schedule appointment with BE Comm Fellow before M1D5

What is the **purpose** of the Background & Motivation section?

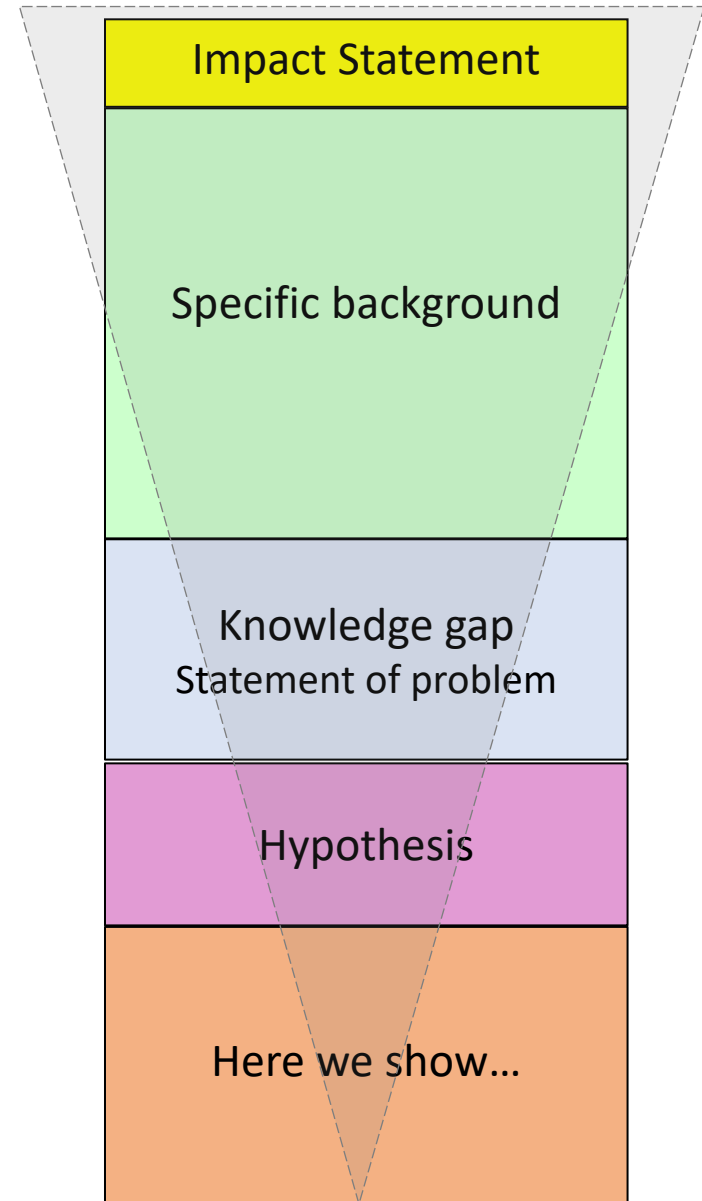
What ***specific information*** should be included in the Background & Motivation section?

Notes on Background & Motivation section...

- Anchor your research in a general topic that is important to a broad audience
 - Focus on describing what is currently known in the field
 - Reference the relevant research in the field
- Connect your research to the general topic
 - Minimum essential information
 - Introduce specific technologies necessary for understanding your specific project
- Address how you will expand on what is currently known
 - Include evidence of incompleteness of current understanding
 - Motivate your investigation
 - **Include a clear hypothesis / research goal**
- Provide a preview of your findings and the implications
 - Tie back to the initial general topic
 - Avoid including extensive methods details

Notes on topic sentences...

- **Topic sentence = first sentence of each paragraph**
- Should 'funnel' from big picture topic to your specific research question / project
 - Provide only the background needed to understand research / problem / goal
 - Clearly state what is not currently known
 - Address how you will fill knowledge gap
 - Provide preview of your results
- Include references!!



How should you introduce your story?

1st paragraph: what is the big picture / problem?

2nd paragraph: what is currently known?

3rd (or 4th) paragraph: what is your research question?

4th (or 3rd) paragraph: how will you address your question?

5th paragraph: here we show...

