

Alexandra Brader
Kenyon College
PHIL 245: Phil Sci
bradnera@kenyon.edu

The Structure of a Scientific Paper: A Middle Stakes Writing Assignment

In the wake of Kuhn's *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Frederick Suppe argues in "The Structure of a Scientific Paper" that there is something about the very structure of a scientific paper that encourages the reader to receive the material within the paper as epistemically authoritative. He goes through the standard sections of a scientific paper, step-by-step, and examines the role and rhetoric of each section.

In this middle stakes writing assignment, I would like you to take a recent scientific paper from your discipline and analyze the rhetoric using Suppe's paper as a guide and inspiration. Are there areas within your paper where the authoritative prose and standardized structure do the evidentiary work? Please explain and make your case in a 3-4-page (750-1000-word) paper due in one week.

Suppe, Frederick, "The Structure of a Scientific Paper," *Philosophy of Science*, Vol. 65, No. 3 (Sep., 1998), pp. 381-405. Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/188275>