

Graduate Writing Skills

Strategies for Success in
Graduate School and Beyond

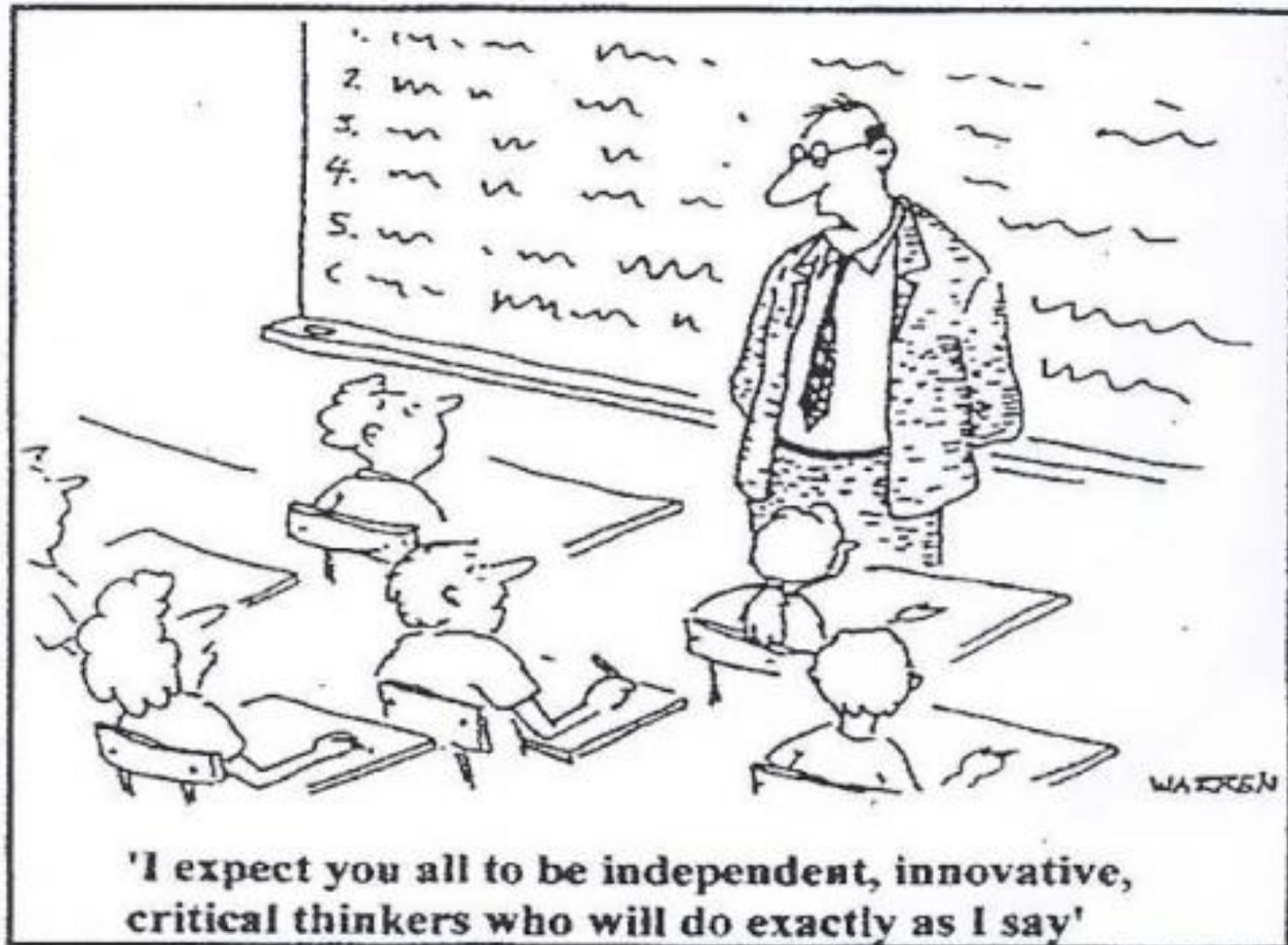
Graduate Student Orientation
Spring 2013



COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Prior to graduate school...



Knowledge Telling

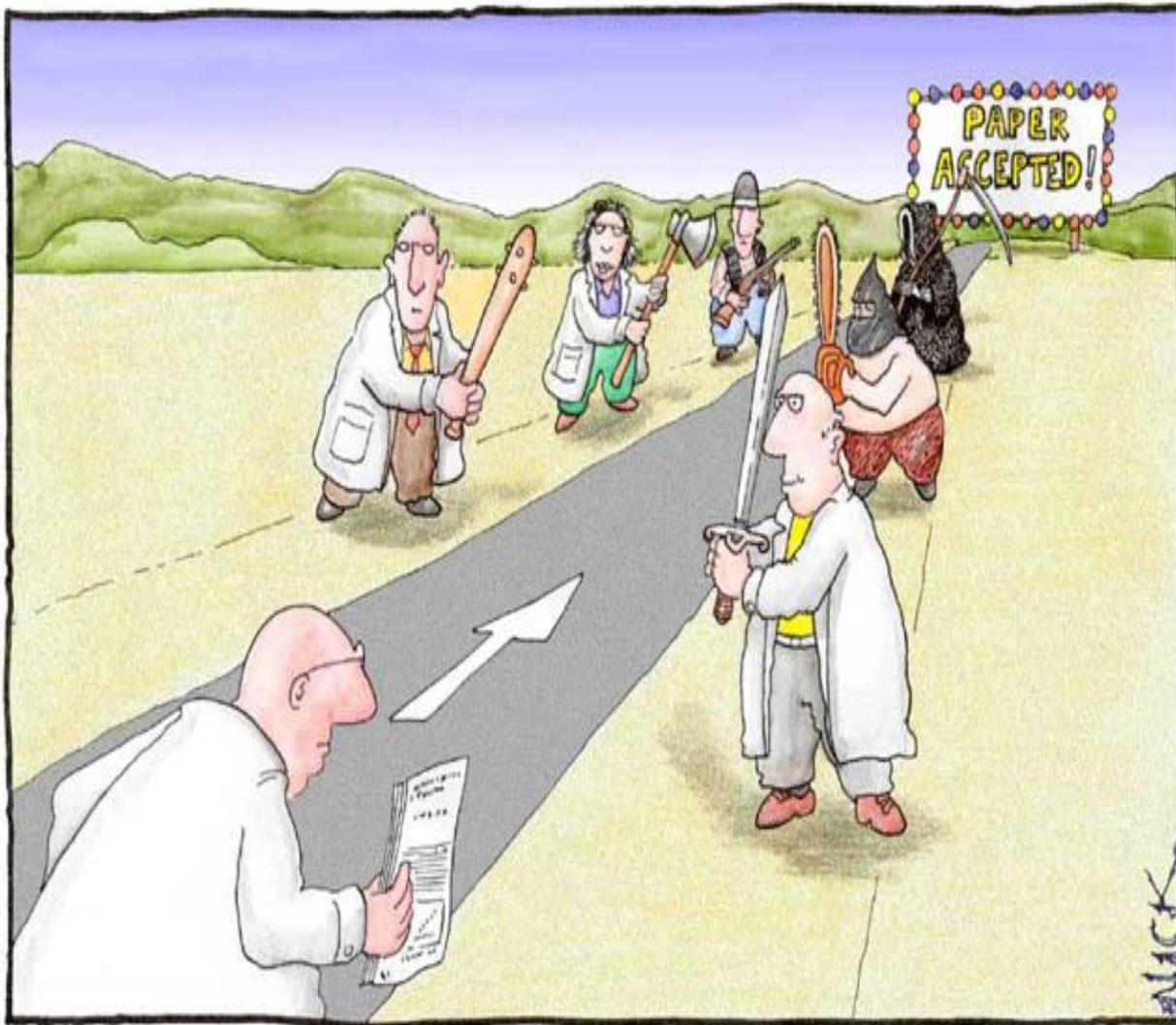
Issues reduced to simplest denominators

Comprehensive, yet broad, reports

Teacher as primary audience

Direct quotation and paraphrase

Simple argumentation and some analysis



Graduate school and beyond...

Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

Knowledge Making

Enter existing conversation
by publication or
presentation

Sound argumentation and
thorough analysis

Peers in field as
primary audience

Summary and synthesis

Introduce new knowledge
and offer meta-commentary

New Expectations: Faculty



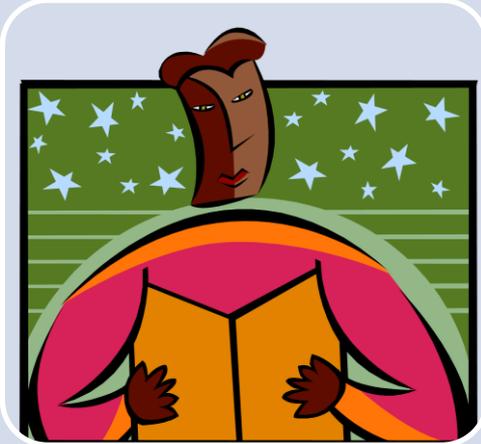
Assigning course work

- may or may not provide detailed, step-by-step instructions for a paper or presentation



Reviewing your work

- may or may not offer extensive feedback
- may only review at pre-determined stages



Supporting publication efforts

- may or may not offer info on opportunities

New Expectations: Scholars



Navigating procedures



Initiating research



Understanding degree/discipline expectations*



Conferencing with faculty/advisors



Managing tasks and project timelines



Establishing writing/research schedule

CRAP* Test

Currency

Is the source recent enough to matter for your topic and discipline?

Reliability

Is the information trustworthy?
Evidence?
Opinion?

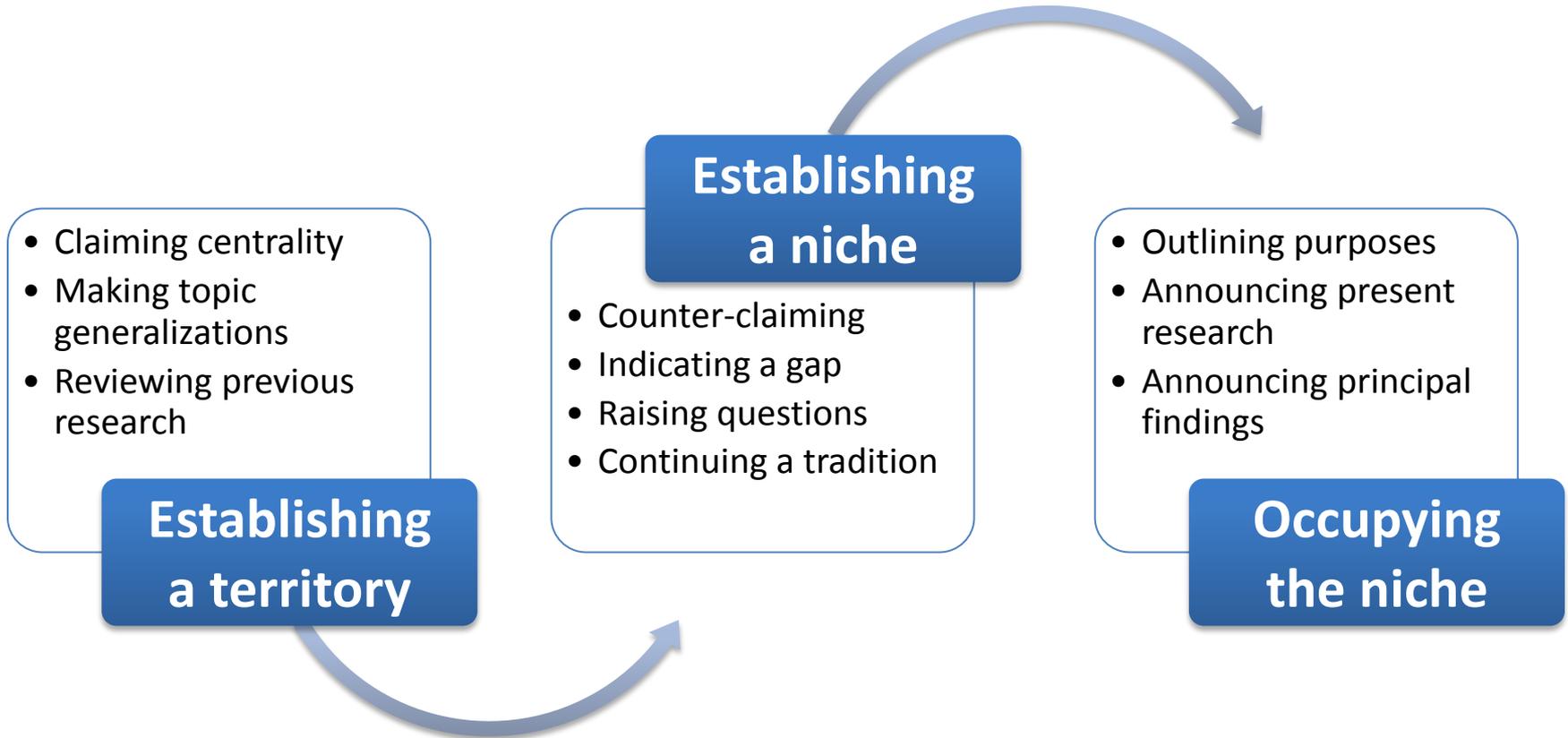
Authority

What are the author's credentials?
Does he or she have standing in your discipline? Is the publication recognized in your field?

Purpose

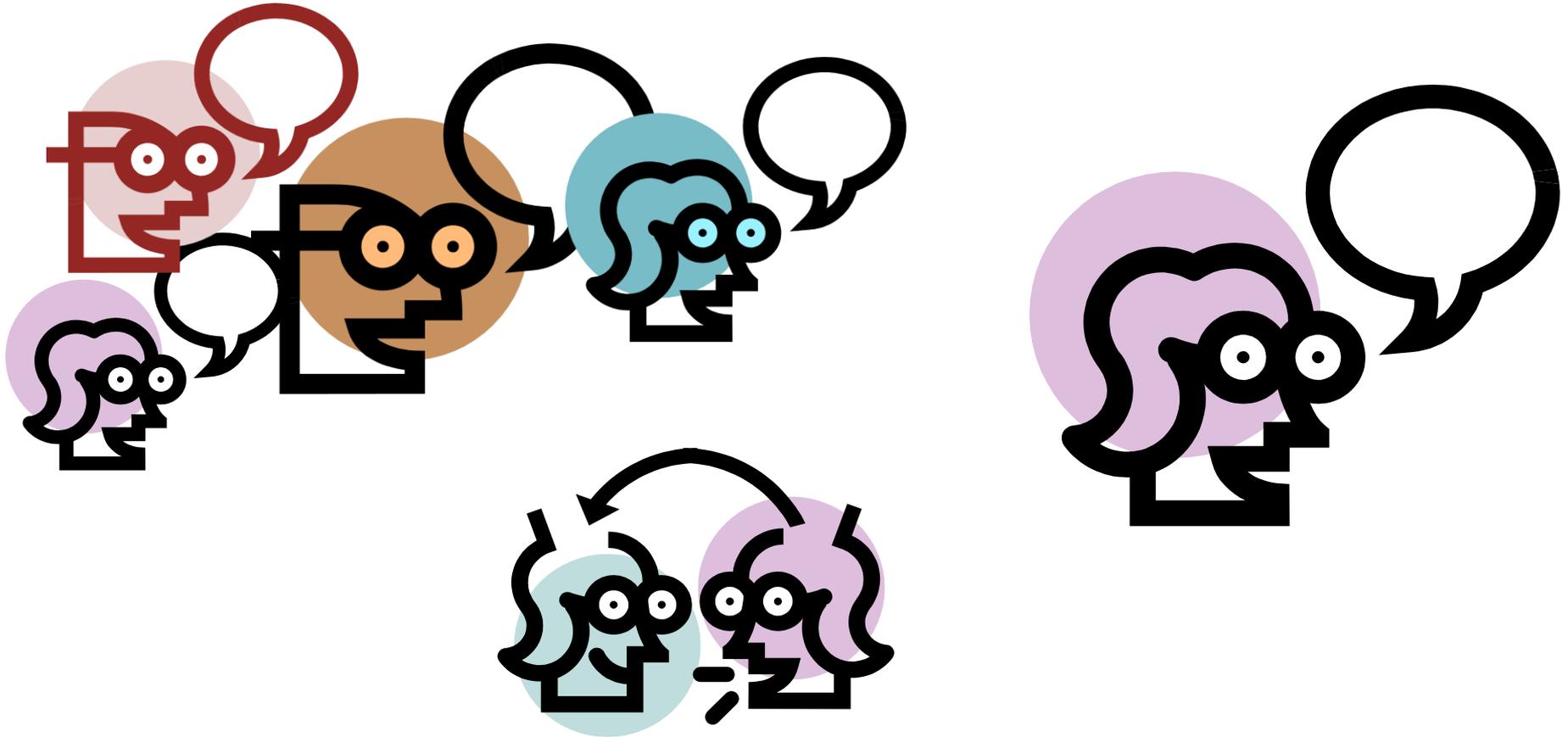
What is the intent of the article?

Creating a Space for Yourself



Adapted from John Swales, *Genre Analysis: English in academic and research settings*, Cambridge Press, 1990.

Entering the Conversation*



Material based on the book *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein

Go Back to the Basics

YOUR THESIS
IN 3 MINUTES:

WHY YOU'RE DOING IT

HOW YOU'RE
DOING IT

HOW IT RELATES TO
THE REAL WORLD



Thank You and Remember...



Resources

- *Your Advisor !*
- Journal articles in your discipline
- **University Libraries**
 - <http://www.utoledo.edu/library/>
- The Writing Center
 - <http://www.utoledo.edu/centers/writingcenter/>
- College of Graduate Studies
 - <http://www.utoledo.edu/graduate/>

Library Services

- **University Libraries**
 - Ask a librarian
 - Subject liaison librarians
 - LibGuides
 - OhioLINK
 - Research databases and online journals
 - **Services just for Graduate Students**