

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

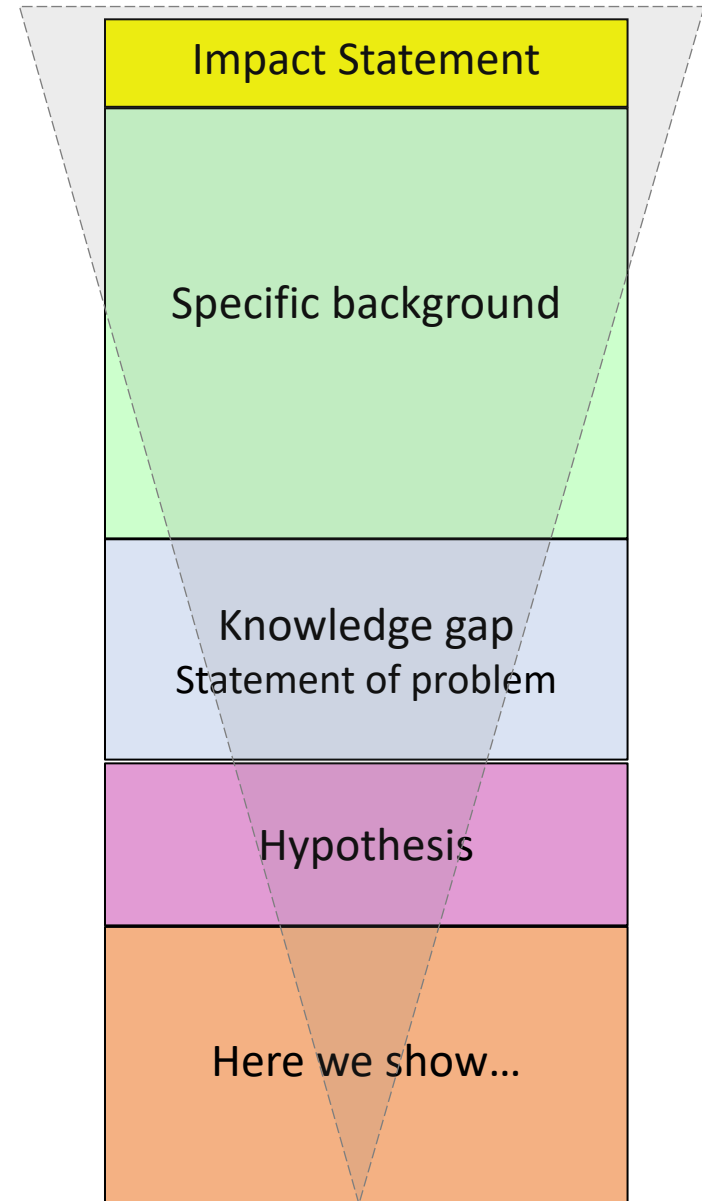
What ***specific information*** should be included in the Background & Motivation section?

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...

