**Rhetorical moves to indicate novelty**

**Swales, John. Genre Analysis: English in Academic and Research Settings. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990.**

John Swales has studied the introductions of scientific articles and identified four standard rhetorical moves scientists use to create a context for their work.

1. They **demonstrate the interest or importance** of the research topic.
2. They selectively **review and summarize the previously published research** literature.
3. They show that the research is not complete, **creating a "gap"** in the previous research. This gap may be articulated as an unresolved controversy, a question that has been overlooked, or a new application of the research. In any case, the researchers show that there is something missing (or unfulfilled) in the current state of research AND they make the case that there is a need for this gap to be filled.
4. They present their own research is as a **timely and appropriate "filler" for this gap**.

Although Swales' research is focused on scientific writing, these "Swales moves" are found in almost all academic disciplines.

These moves are not necessarily linear: a writer can backtrack at any point and move from discussing a gap in the research (move 3) to again summarizing previous research (move 2). However, these moves do represent the overall trajectory of an introduction to a research article and too much movement back and forth can confuse readers.

**Example 1:**

Multiple studies suggest that writers prefer audio-taped feedback on their writing to traditional, handwritten comments (Dragga, 1991; Neuwirth et al., 1994; Pearce & Ackley, 1995; van Horn-Christopher, 1995). However, these studies have primarily observed technical and business writers. Moreover, these studies have not compared students' perceptions of audio-taped comments with "live" forms of feedback, such as student-teacher conferences. To assess the possible effects of different forms of teacher feedback in a general composition setting, this study asks students enrolled in a variety of English writing courses to rank their preferences of different forms of feedback.

**Example 2:**

Peptic ulcer disease is a chronic disease characterized by frequent recurrences. Recent studies have suggested that the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* infection affects the natural history of duodenal ulcer disease such that the rate of recurrence decreases markedly (1-6). However, the interpretation of these results has been complicated by the fact that several of the larger studies did not use control groups or any form of blinding (3, 5, 6). In addition, studies of the effect of *H. pylori* eradication in patients with gastric ulcer have not been done. We report the results of a randomized, controlled trial in which we evaluated the effect of therapy designed to eradicate *H. pylori* on the pattern of ulcer recurrence in patients with duodenal or gastric ulcer.