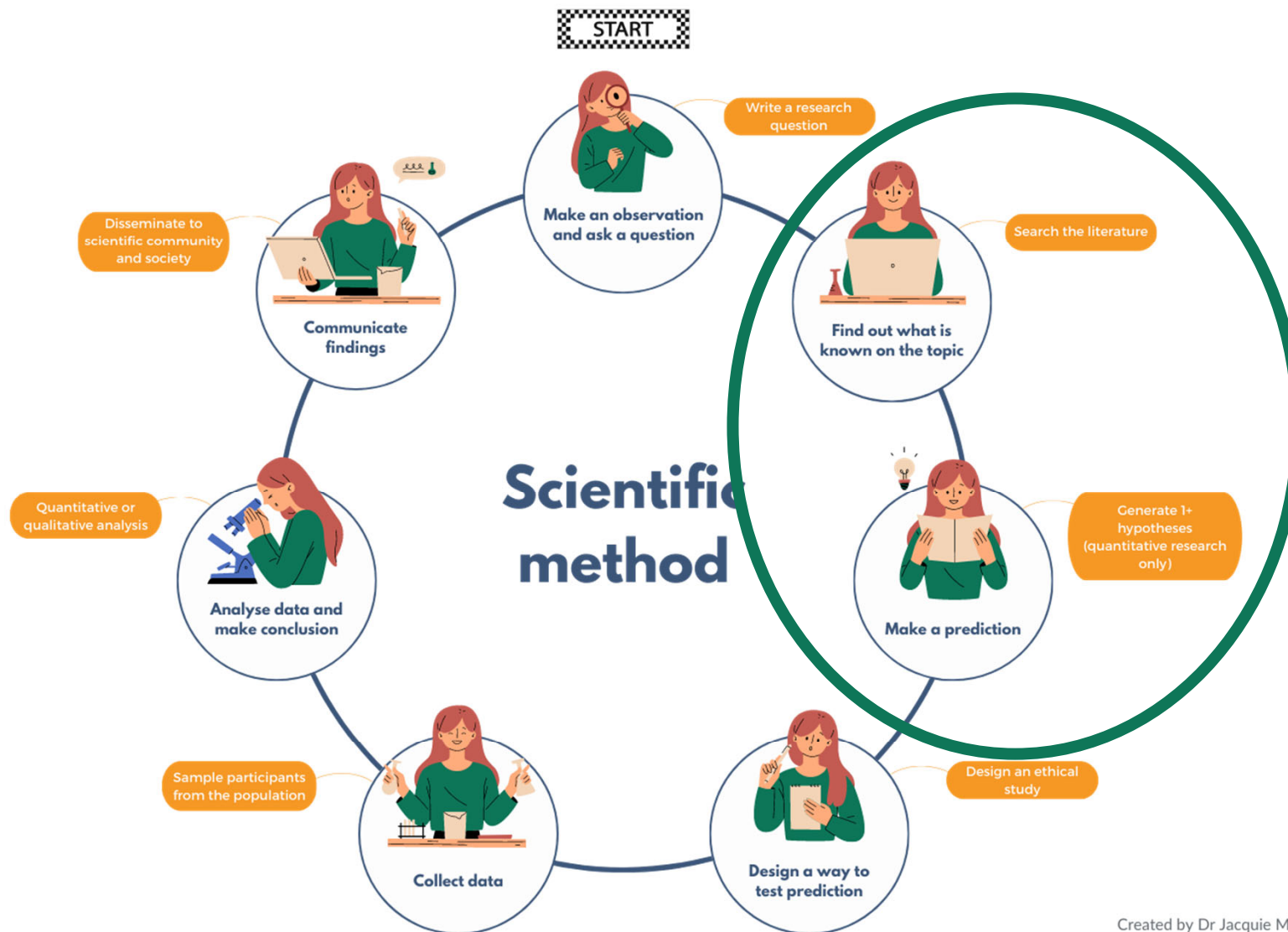


Lab report video 2

Introduction section

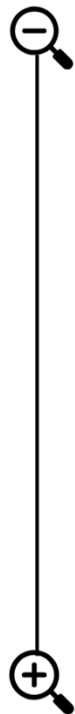


Purpose of the Introduction section

- First main section of the report
- Introduces the reader to:
 - The topic generally and
 - The specific focus of the current study
- Provides a rationale for the topic and the study's focus within the topic
- To achieve this, the Introduction needs to be informative and logical
 - Descriptive writing on past studies is not particularly informative; what's needed is critical analysis

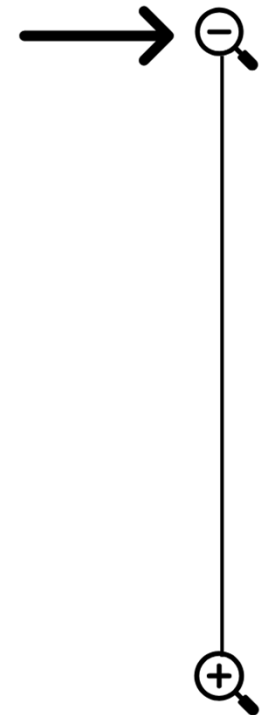
Structure of the Introduction section

1. Introduce the topic and why it is important to investigate
2. Explain what research has been conducted on the topic so far
 - Fundamental theories, if relevant
 - Past studies
3. State what is unknown in the literature and explain why it would be valuable to make it known
4. Present the current study's aim and hypotheses



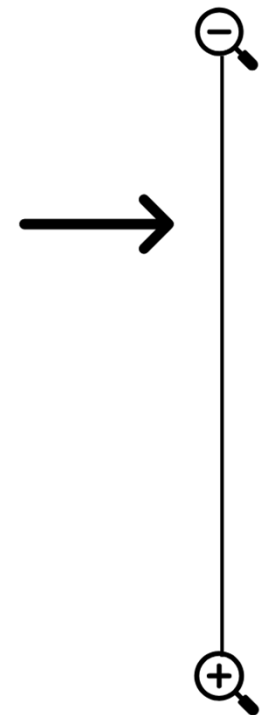
1. Introduce the topic and why it is important

- 1 paragraph
- This typically means introducing your key concepts from your research question
- Need to introduce them broadly and explain why it is important to research them – why is it worth furthering our understanding of this topic?
- It may make sense to define the key terms in this first paragraph (there is another place you may define key terms later on in the Intro)



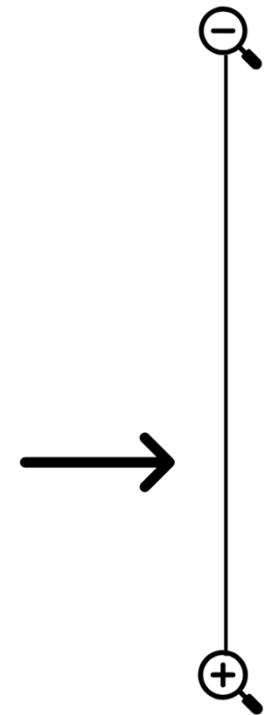
2. Explain what has been done so far

- Multiple paragraphs; the bulk of the Introduction
- Critical review of the literature
 - Describing past literature is a small part of this
 - More importantly, you want to be **comparing** and **evaluating** past literature
- In certain places, it may make sense to define some of the key terms throughout your review



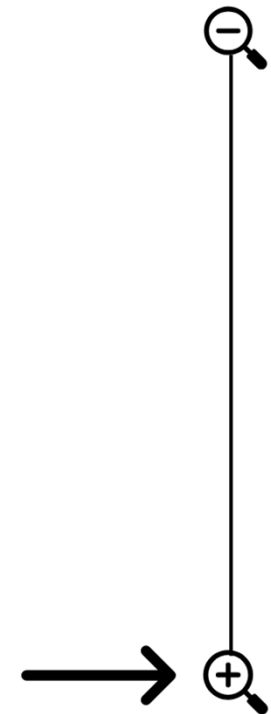
3. State what is unknown and the value in trying to make it known

- 1 paragraph
- Make it clear what we don't yet know about the topic that could be worth knowing
 - Your research question covers this so think back to this
- Give a logical justification for why the current study is worth conducting
 - Why might it be valuable for us to know what you've just identified as unknown?



4. State aim and hypotheses

- 1 paragraph
- Clearly state what the current study is aiming to do to address the research question
 - E.g., “The current study aimed to...”
- State what outcomes you expect to find, making it clear you are basing this on past research
 - E.g., “Based on Bereznicki et al.’s (2022) findings, it was predicted that...”
 - E.g., “Informed by the findings of Harries and Curtis (2021) and Mills et al., (2019), we hypothesised that...”



Formulating hypotheses

- What do the past studies suggest is the likely relation between the variables of interest in our study? In which direction are the variables likely to be related?
 - Positive
 - Negative
- You can propose that you'll find something different to past research so long as there is other evidence to support you making this claim
 - E.g., another body of research suggesting something your study is capturing and testing might contribute to finding the opposite of what past studies have found
- If there is no exact research on the variables of interest, what similar variables have been studied that we can use to help us make an inference about how our variables are likely to be related?

Skills involved in completing the Introduction section

- Problem-solving
- Critical thinking
- Literature searching and evaluating
- Use of logic
- Communicating clearly and professionally

Questions

Please post any questions you might have on the discussion boards.