

# Writing introductions

There are differences across the disciplines but in many fields, introductions typically follow Swales' (1990) CARS model (Creating a Research Space).

## CARS steps (moves):

- Move 1: Establishing a Territory [the situation]
- Move 2: Establishing a Niche [the problem]
- Move 3: Occupying the Niche [the solution]
- I. Move 1 is achieved by making generalizations and claiming the centrality of the field. What language is used to achieve his aim?
  - 1. Install AntConc https://www.laurenceanthony.net/software/antconc/ and open it.
  - 2. Open the directory containing introductions to urology papers.
  - 3. In the clusters/ngrams tab put the verb 'is' in the search box.
  - 4. Adjust the search conditions:
    - a. 3- and 4-grams
    - b. minimum frequency 3, minimum range 3
    - c. the search word on the left of the n-gram
  - 5. Press the *Start* button.
  - 6. Study the results. Which clusters seem to underline the centrality and importance of the field?
  - 7. Click on selected cluster. You will be taken to the concordance tab.
  - 8. Now click on the Concordance plot button. You should see several horizontal bards running across the screen. They represent individual corpus files, each containing one introduction.
  - 9. The vertical lines represent the locations of the selected cluster in the text (beginning, middle, end).
  - 10. Click on the lines which are located right at or close to the left end of the bars (symbolizing the start of the introduction. Study the sentence containing the target cluster. **Does the sentence** express the centrality and importance of the topic?
  - 11. Note down interesting examples.
- II. In move 2 the author identifies a niche (gap) in the field (research area). What words and clusters may be suitable for this task? Search for them in the corpus following the same steps as above. Note down interesting examples.

## **KEY**

### Move 1

is the most is the most common is considered to is one of is considered to be is a global is one of the is difficult to is a major is considered as is important to is estimated to be is a common is known about is expected to is estimated that is known about the is the second

is an important

### Move 2

is the second most

is not clear is a lack of question is a lack however problem

is estimated to