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Speaker 1

Well okay so the first thing I tell all my students and postdocs and so on is you want to think about writing a paper in terms of telling a story

Okay so you have to have a vision as to what that story is because that's the way that you're going to make the writing process the most efficient

So it's before you ever write anything down it's mostly just that the level of

Let's talk about what this paper might be and it always ends up being

What's the story you want to tell

I am often see papers that are submitted, and of course as the editor I'm looking at the papers and I'm saying okay what's their story and unfortunately sometimes I get papers that where there's no story

Okay it's just simply it we you know here's some results that we generated and you know just take it or leave it and it's like okay this is no story okay so that's a problem

Speaker 2

I think it's important that people read a lot of the literature and find papers that really inspire them

And you, if you watch some of the masters of chemistry tell their stories in the literature

I think that's really the best way to learn you know to read and think about how they did it, and then think about how you could potentially map your story on to theirs

Speaker 3

When you meander and start trying to write a paper and then figure out you know the significance of it is as you go along I think it often leads to a you know very difficult to tell story and a poorly told story so I'm a big proponent of you know before we do anything let's ask what it is that we can conclude what we've taught the world

Speaker 4

Sometimes a story and the important results can get buried in a paper and

So I think it's really critical to think about what your most compelling results are

What your key advances are

And to be absolutely certain that you build the introduction and build the story of your paper around conveying those results

If those get lost in mounds and mounds of data and data interpretation

You're going to have a much less likely chance of garnering excitement from the reviewers for your paper

Speaker 5

So I spend a lot of time just trying to think about that. How to tell the story

And sometimes, especially with very complicated researches, there's a lot of stuff in the details that can be quite difficult to get the story across

You know, my students come to me with the first draft

And if it's a paper, the first question I ask them is what is the story? What is it you want me to get so?

Once I get that for me, then I can understand how the paper gets put together, but until I get that, I think, it's it can be kind of difficult