

# **Illuminating Manuscripts: A Methodology for Creating Annotated Editions of Scholarly Articles in STEM Fields**

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## **Informed Consent Form for Reader Participants**

You are invited to participate in a research project being conducted by Dr. Luke Redington, a faculty member in the Department of English at the University of Maine. The purpose of the research is to make technical material easier to understand for public audiences. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in this study.

### **What Will You Be Asked to Do?**

If you decide to participate, you will participate in a ninety-minute session in which you will read a scientific article and answer questions about it. You will be asked to answer questions about how the article states and supports its argument. Examples of the questions you will be asked are as follows:

1. According to researchers in the field of technical communication, the goals of the introduction section in a scientific journal article are that it “**Provides a literature review that 1. establishes the study’s continuity with existing research and 2. justifies the need for new work the study undertakes**” (2014, p. 56). After reading the introduction section, please do the following:

1. A. Identify two or three key places that contribute to the any of the goals described earlier in this question (and which appear in bold font). For each place you identify, please provide a two or three sentence description of how the text you have identified advances the section’s goals.

1. B. Identify up to three places in this section where there is text whose contribution to the section’s goal you cannot identify. For each place, please describe, to the best of your ability, why that text’s contribution is not clear.

### **Risks**

This study poses no more risk to you than everyday life. However, it asks you to incur the time and inconvenience of participating. There is also a risk that the information you disclose in the study could potentially identify you.

(The time, date, and location of the session in which you will participate, if you agree to do so, are named in the accompanying recruitment email.)

### **Benefits**

1. This research has the potential to benefit you by giving you practical tools to better understand new scientific research. If this research pertains to your future career field, those practical tools have potential benefits for your professional development.

2. This research could benefit technical communicators in their efforts to make published STEM research more accessible to public audiences. Advancements in STEM affect a much bigger group of people than those who understand the advancements. This project has the potential to give public audiences the benefit of greater understanding how STEM research is changing the world around them.

**Confidentiality**

Your participation in this study will **NOT** be kept confidential. This study’s goals require me to include information about your year and major, and disclosing this ability compromises the study’s ability to avoid disclosing information that could be used to identify you.

Privacy is very important for this study. Your answers will remain secure. They will be kept on a password protected computer. The data will be stored either at the researcher’s campus office or home. The data will be kept for five years after the completion of the study, i.e., July 2022 and then destroyed.

**Voluntary Participation**

Participation is voluntary. If you choose to take part in this study, you may stop at any time. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions about this study, please contact me at (207) 581-3800 or lukeredington@maine.edu. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office of Research Compliance, University of Maine, 207/581-1498 or 207/581-2657 (or e-mail umric@maine.edu).

**References**

Pérez-Llantada, C. (2014). *Scientific discourse and the rhetoric of globalization: The impact of culture and language* (NIPPOD edition). London; New York: Bloomsbury Academic.

University of Maine IRB Approval # 2017-05-01

I have read and agreed to these terms.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_