What is the purpose of academic writing?

• Who reads academic writing? Why?

• Who writes academic papers?
  – What (kind of) information do writers communicate?
  – If academic writing is about argument, what is the writer’s goal?

• How do audience & purpose effect content & style?
What is the purpose of academic writing?

• Have a thesis statement / claim / research conclusion / main finding

• Convince readers it is true / worthwhile / reasonable / an advance
  – Make a logical argument.
  – Support it with evidence.

• Focus on science, not yourself
How do I get there?

• READ and UNDERSTAND work in your field.
  – Understand the conclusion (thesis).
  – Think critically about the argument.

• Before you write, THINK about what you know and why it matters to your audience.
Major Assignment 1

• Select a published paper in your field.

• Analyze *how* it communicates.
  – What is the conclusion?
  – What is the argument? the data?
  – What are the paper’s strengths? weaknesses?

• Give a 10 minute oral presentation.