

The Says/Does approach:
A Practical Guide to Deconstructing your Sources for the Long Paper
Assignment

Read the paragraphs of the introduction & discussion sections using the following **close reading technique**.

Use the “Says plus Does” approach: for each paragraph of these two sections of each paper, summarize the main point of the section (“Says”) followed by a brief statement on the “point” of that section (“Does”).

For example, look at the first paragraph from Corkum et al. 2006:

Introduction

In contrast to many terrestrial insects, aquatic insects such as mayflies and stoneflies typically have a relatively short period to disperse, and exposure to meteorological conditions likely influences flight significantly (Briers et al. 2003). Air temperature, wind, cloud cover, relative humidity, and other factors may affect insect dispersal by influencing take-off (typically inhibited by high winds) and duration

of flight (Johnson 1969). Lyman (1944) reported that on-shore breezes resulted in the accumulation of adult *Hexagenia* Walsh, 1863 mayflies on the South Bass Islands in western Lake Erie. Waringer (1991) and Kovats et al. (1996) showed that night air temperature affected the daily catches of caddisflies, but precipitation and wind speed had minor effects on catches. Swarms of adult stoneflies were positively related to air temperature, but negatively related to wind speed (Briers et al. 2003). In wetlands, elevated temperatures, chlorophyll *a*, and low numbers of predators resulted in nuisance swarms of midges (Davis et al. 2002).

Mayflies can increase their fitness by emerging en masse, which facilitates mating and reduces predation (Sweeney and Vannote 1982). In mayflies, all growth occurs during the nymphal stage. Final-instar nymphs leave the substrate, swim to the water surface, and moult into a subimago. Subimagos emerge from the water and fly or are carried by wind to land where they rest for a day and then moult into a sexually mature imago. If prevailing winds affect flight

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The “Says” part is a **brief summary statement**, or if easier, can be in question format.

E.g.: What conditions have been found to affect the flight activity of the adult forms of aquatic insects?

The “Does” part will include phrases like: *introduces, elaborates on, presents an opposing view, lays out the history of, narrows the focus, presents the thesis, sets up the argument, presents an example, gives data in support of a point, sums up the perspectives presented, etc.*

E.g.: This paragraph gives several examples (using mayflies, caddisflies and stoneflies) of the factors that influence flight activity in aquatic insects, highlighting the main findings of those studies.

Complete this exercise for the intro & discussion of each of your primary resources (NOT for review papers) and you will significantly increase your understanding of the content and interpretation of each of your sources.