Results govern the content and structure of your paper. It is important to know what your main points are before you start writing.

**What’s your story?**
Identify from your results a clearly connected story that leads to one or more take-home messages. This term refers to what readers remember after they have put the paper down: what they talk to their colleagues about over a cup of coffee the next day, for example.

To move toward a clear story, focus on your tables and figures first. For each one, write a list of one or two bullet points highlighting the main message(s) of the data presented. Sort the figures and tables into the best order to connect the pieces of the story together. Draft some bullet points into a list to form a take-home message. Then sit down with your advisor and discuss the story of the paper that you will write. Aim to reach agreement on:

- **What data should be included?**
- **What are the important points that form the story of the paper?**
- **What is/are the take-home message or messages?**

**What are your constraints?**
To answer this, you need to think about your desired audience, and other issues discussed in class, and you need to pick a target journal. Then, think about the following:

- Is there more than one type of article in the journal (e.g., letter, report, article, etc), and which type are you writing?
- What are the formatting requirements? (e.g., word or page count)
- What is the typical structure of articles in the journal?

**Turn in (on 8 April, 2011) written answers for the following questions (1 – 7):**
1. **What do my results say?** (2 sentences maximum, a very brief summary of the main points, with no background!)
2. **What do these results mean in the their context?** (i.e., what conclusions can be drawn from the results?)
3. **Who needs to know about these results?** (i.e., who specifically forms the audience for this paper you are going to write?)
4. **Why do they need to know?** (i.e., what contribution will the results make to ongoing work in the field? Or, what will other researchers be missing if they haven’t read your paper?)
5. **What is your target journal?**
6. **What is your target word or page count?**
7. **What is your target structure?** (e.g., AIMRD, or something else?)

Use the rest of your writing time this week to assemble your figures and tables, and to hone the logical flow of your story.