

Introduction



WHAT?



SO WHAT?

What?

Indicate the field of the work, why this field is important, and what has already been done (with proper citations).

So what?

Indicate a gap, raise a research question, or challenge prior work in this territory.

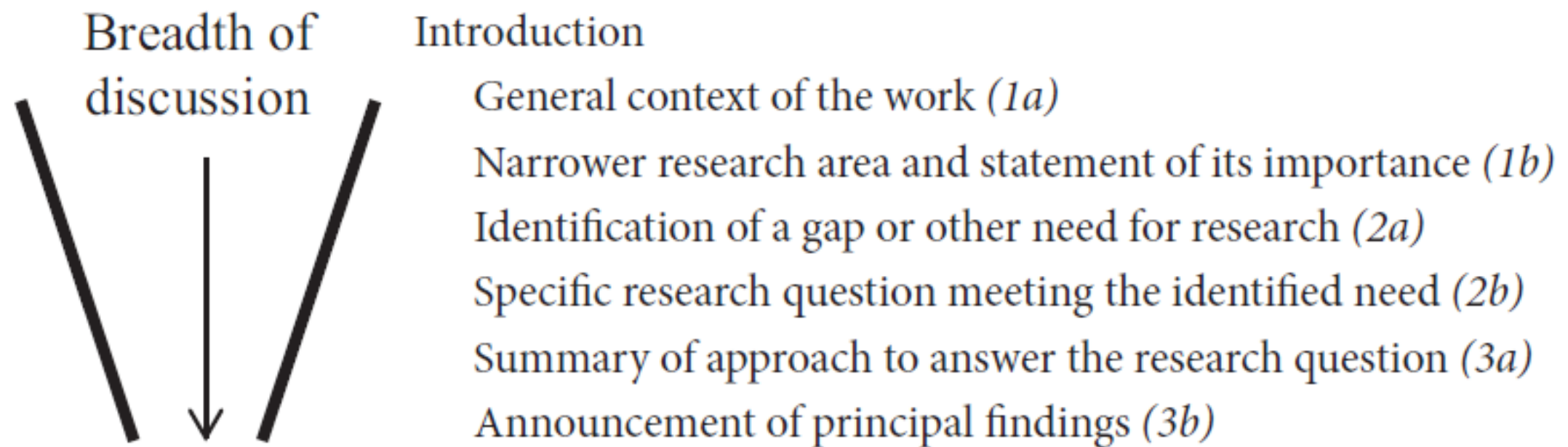
Outline the purpose and announce the present research, clearly indicating what is novel and why it is significant.

Another way to think about it

1. Define a research territory
2. Establish a niche within the research territory
3. Occupy the niche

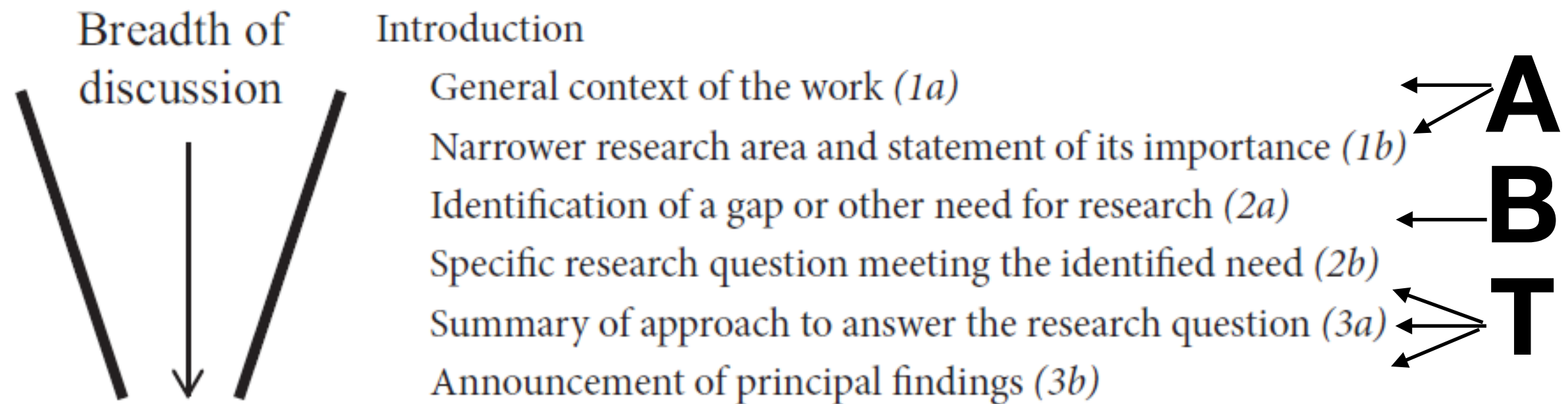
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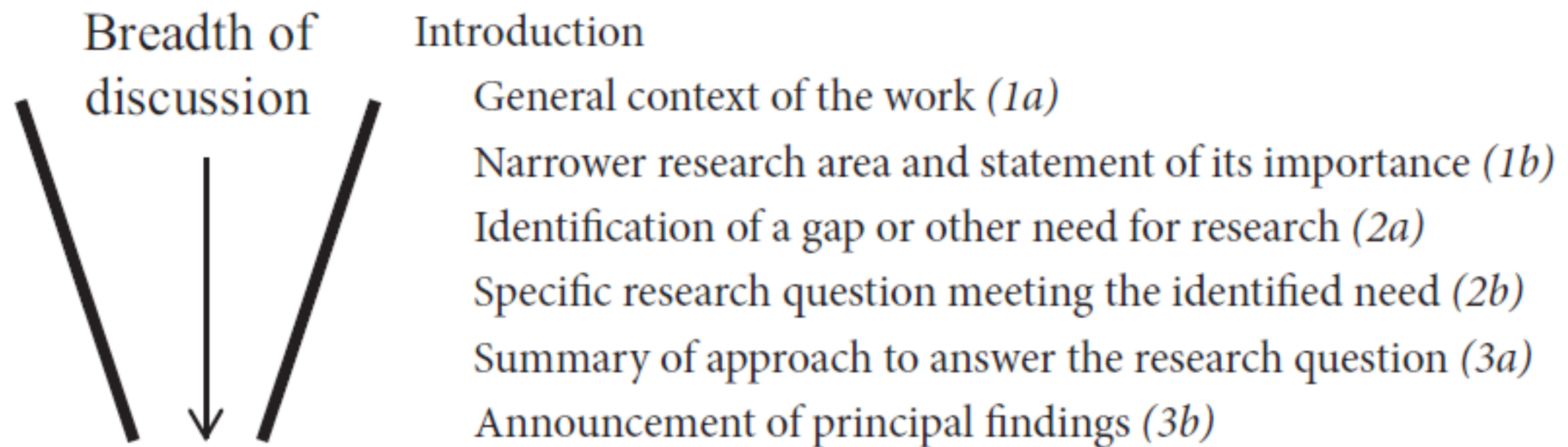
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1. Define a research territory

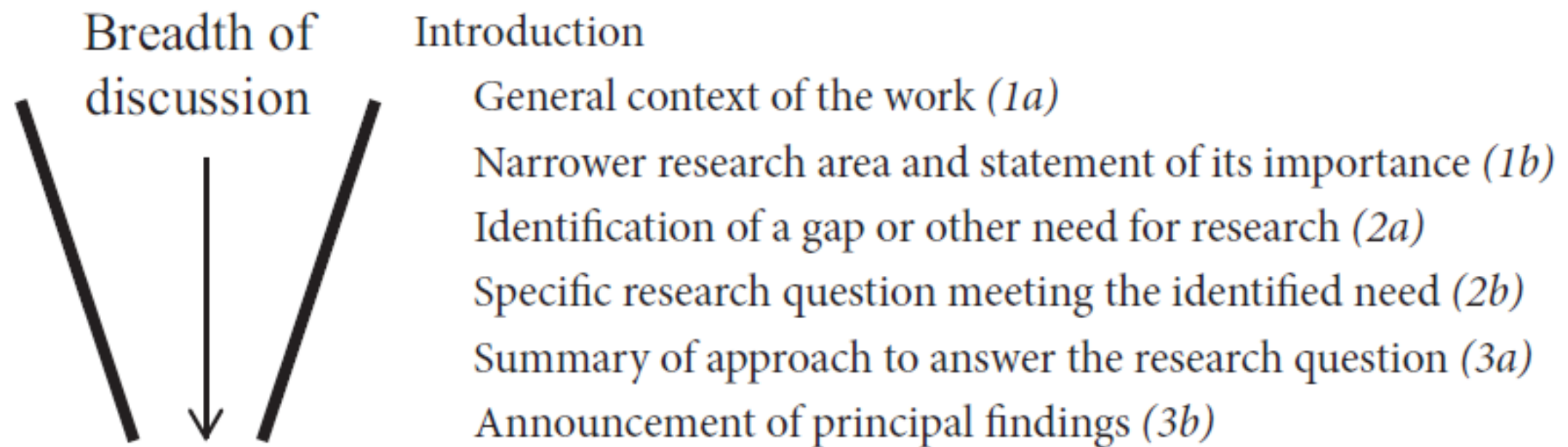
- Start broad: what context makes your work **most important** to **the most** readers?
- *How* broad depends on what journal you're aiming for
- Then within that broader field, where does your work fit?

This is your research territory.



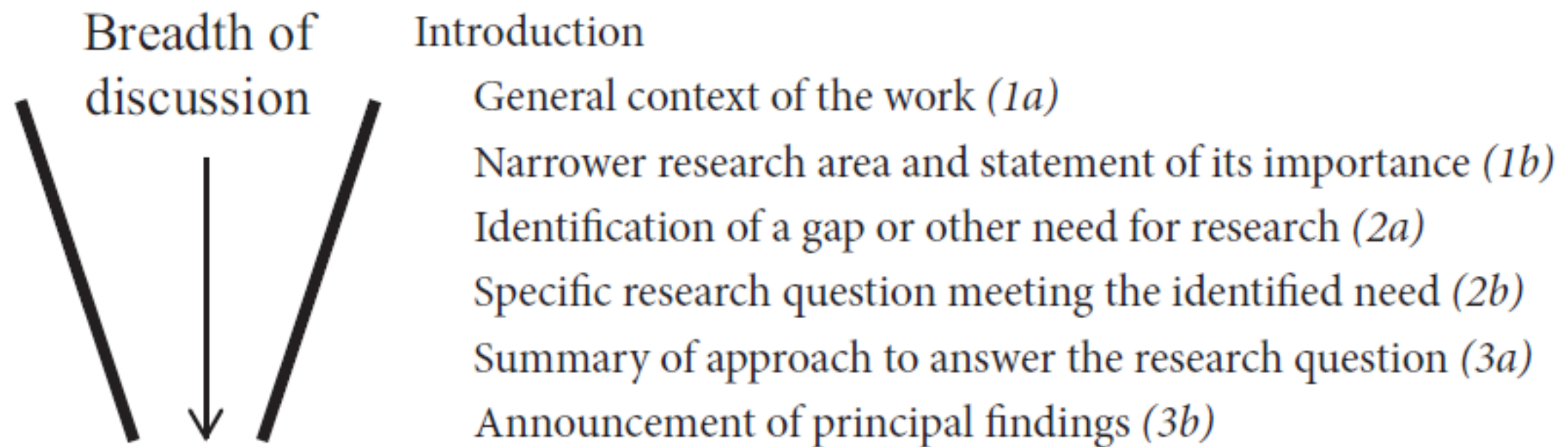
2. Establish a niche within the research territory

- Identify concrete, narrow open problem within the territory
- State specific research question



3. Occupy the niche within the research territory

- What did you do, and how does it answer the research question?
- This involves brief summary of major methods (few sentences)
- [Optional] End with a brief summary of the results



Be Concise yet Specific

Only include relevant information given your audience and your experimental design.

Abbreviations are always defined in the Introduction the first time they're used (I personally like to define them again in the Results section)

As you write, keep asking, "Is this necessary information or is this irrelevant detail?"

Many people keep an extra document for deleted text! When in doubt, write more in a first draft, it's easier to take away than write *de novo*.

Things to avoid

Repeating the abstract;

Providing unnecessary background information;

Exaggerating the importance of the work;

Claiming novelty without a proper literature search;