#SciComm101 DAY 2: DIGITAL STORYTELLING









PRESENTERS

Natalie van Hoose, Florida Museum Science Writer

Kirsten Hecht, Florida Museum Ph.D. student & founder #HERpers

Kristen Grace, Florida Museum Photographer

Allie Blackwell, iDigBio Project Assistant

Becca Burton, TESI Communications Manager









Science Blogging: Techniques from Creative Writing

Natalie van Hoose, Florida Museum Science Writer

Online Journey of a #HERper



Kirsten Hecht
Ph.D. candidate
UF School of Natural Resources
and Environment



The Online Journey of a #HERper

Kirsten Hecht, PhD Candidate







LIFESTYLE HOME & GARDEN FOOD EVENTS

TRAVEL CASINO GUIDE

2019 TRAVEL GUIDE



Advertise

Enter to Win

About the Magazine

Contact Us

Be in the Magazine

Photo Contest

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facebook

The Snake Lady

When Kristen Stanford began researching the Lake Erie water snake in 1999 from her base at Ohio State's Stone Laboratory near Put-in-Bay, Ohio, there were fewer than 2,000. Now, there are between 10,000 and 12,000 and the snake has officially been delisted as an endangered species. We checked in with the woman known as "The Snake Lady" to see how she did it.

By Colleen Smitek

On the snake's success: "It became the 23rd species to be removed from the endangered species list. The populations did, in fact, recover. And we met those goals in 10 years."

The biggest threat: Humans. "A lot of people just don't like snakes. I had to tell them, 'Hey, you're not legally allowed to kill these animals anymore.' The water snake had basically the same status as the Bald Eagle. The fine for killing them was up to \$100,000 per animal."

What works: "One of the outreach strategies that we use is to help find ways for people to live alongside of these water snakes. There are ways they can discourage them."

Like what? "If they are on your beach, pick the far edge of your shoreline, build a little brush pile and the snakes will go there. Don't leave rafts or cushions around. If you leave a hiding spot like

they're going to crawl under it."

Goby gobblers: "Water snakes are eating a million gobies a year," Stanford says. " Considering

that there are 9.9 billion gobies in the western basin, that might not seem like much of an impact, but water snakes forage in the same parts of the shoreline where small mouth bass nest. So the snakes are protecting the nests from the nest-eating gobies, which has a very big impact on the lake.

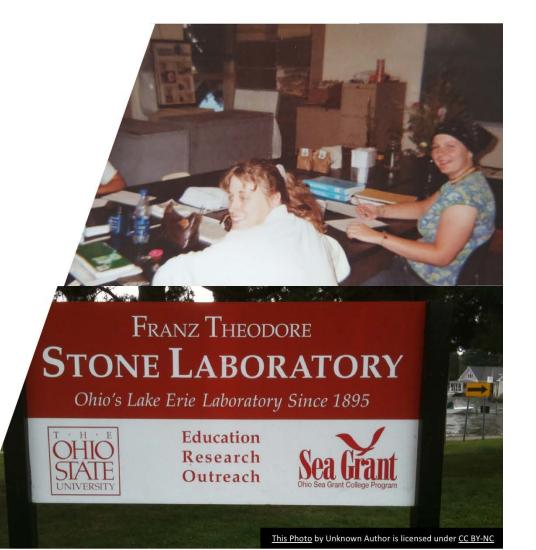
The bottom line: "Respect that the snakes are a part of the island environment and have been since the islands were discovered. Try to find a way to peacefully coexist with them is all I ask of people. They can continue to hate the snakes. But they need a place to live too."

What's next: Stanford is working to protect the timber rattlesnake, which has gone extinct in some states and is listed as endangered in Ohio. "I like snakes in general because I think snakes are fascinating. Just really neat animals. It's OK if you don't like them;

Related Taxonomy

- Lifestyle

Popularity: This record has been viewed 2015 times.





























Public Engagement

(AKA my PhD Topic)

Anytime, Anywhere

















#SPNHC takes over Gainesville!





Edit profile

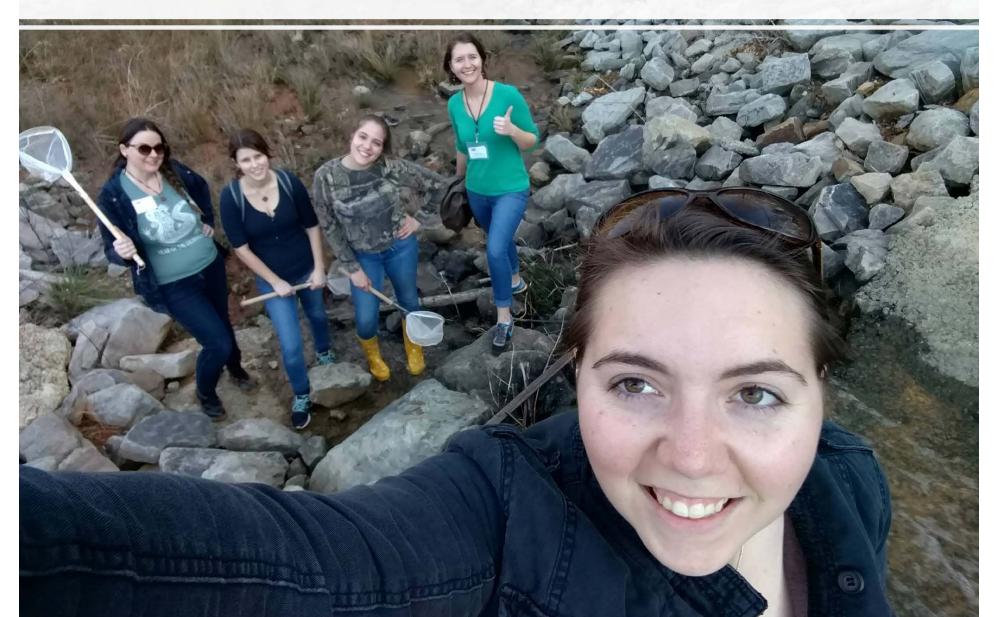
Kirsten Hechtbender

@HellbenderHecht

Salamander Fangirl. Interdisciplinary @UF PhD Candidate. #HERpers founder. @herpetALLogy #SciEngage #InclusiveSTEM #PhDMom #BadPuns #Geekery #HerpHaikus

⊚ she/her & giantsalamanders.org ☑ Joined October 2008

2016: #HERpers



Hashtag celebrates women in science by encouraging photos with cuddly reptiles



Scientists Are Tweeting Photos Of Themselves With Reptiles And **Amphibians**

"I wanted to remind people that some of us love to get muddy and catch awesome critters."

Posted on February 26, 2016, at 9:22 a.m.



View 21 comments 4











Kirsten Hecht, a PhD student at the University of Florida, started the hashtag #HERpers to highlight the work of women in herpetology - the study of reptiles and amphibians.



Since then plenty of other women in science have taken up the



Other Projects





"Reep the World Slimy"

Our Mission is:

- . To disseminate information about the threats to salamanders and their habitats
- . To increase awareness about salamander diversity, biology, and conservation
- To raise money for salamander conservation, education, and research
- To fund salamander conservation, education and/or research initiatives through an annual grant



Latest News:

Now accepting applications for the 2020 Daniel M. DiGiacomo Grant! See the <u>Call for Proposals</u> for more information.

Vernal Pool coloring book by FCSal grant winner Kristine Hoffmann now available.

Save the Date for the 5th Annual <u>Salamander</u> Saturday on May 2nd, 2020.

Amphibian Report Card Launched! Learn about our latest project (<u>click here</u>)

Daniel M. DiGiacomo Grant Update now available.(click here)

Checkout the FC Sal Store
Purchasing any of the items on the website directly
support salamander conservation and research
grants. Charlet them out here



Chopsticks

isposable chopsticks and educate about salamanders and their diversity within

the United States, while raising money to

support salamander conservat education, and research.

We aim to increase awareness about the deformatation for the production of funds from November to January 10th or



alamander Saturday

Salamander Saturday is an initiative started by FCSal to raise awareness about salamanders, their habitats, and their role in the ecosystem. We are encouraging organizations around the world to hold an event on this day promoting global unity in the effort to protect salamanders.

The Salamander Fund

We are a small non-profit designed to provide funding for salamander research education, and conservation initiatives. You can help us help salamanders by donating, attending events, and purchasing merchandise.

What I Get Back







FULFILLMENT



JOB SKILLS



KNOWLEDGE



RESEARCH IDEAS



CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES



CONNECTIONS WITH JOURNALISTS



SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY



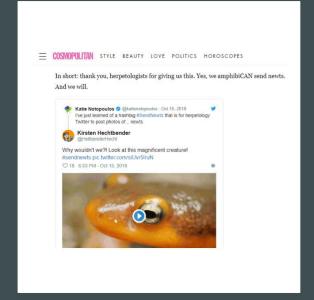
NETWORKING







8:52 PM · May 10, 2019 · Twitter for Android





Advice: Set Goals. Remember this is a marathon

S	M	A	R	T
Specific	Measurable	Attainable	Realistic	Timely
What specifically do you want to do?	How will you know when you've reached it?	Is it in your power to accomplish it?	Can you realistically achieve it?	When exactly do you want to accomplish it?



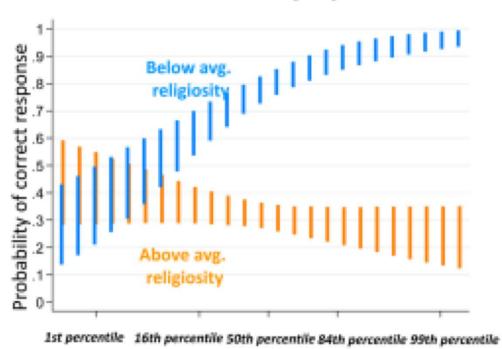


What do we need to know about how people see the world?

Think about a Facebook argument

Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals (T/F)

Belief, Knowledge, and Identity Kahan (2015)

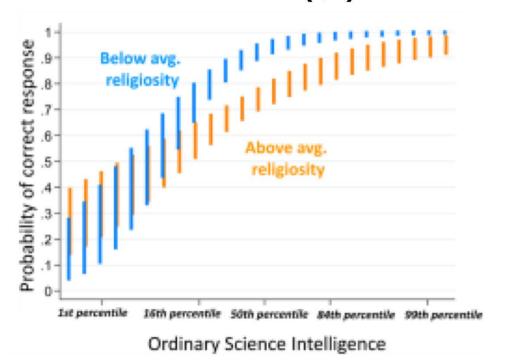


Ordinary Science Intelligence

Belief, Knowledge, and Identity Kahan (2015)

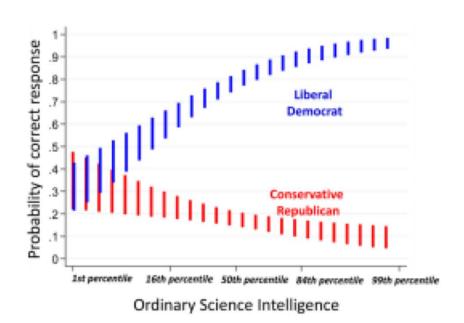
According to the theory of evolution,

human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals (T/F)



Belief, Knowledge, and Identity Kahan (2015)

There is "solid evidence" of recent global warming due "mostly" to "human activity such as burning fossil fuels" Agree/Disagree



Values



A person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life.



Developed over your life through culture, experiences, how people view the world, etc.

FACTS ALONE DON'T WORK



This is a field of study!





Best Practices for Engagement

Make your content accessible:

- Add descriptions for videos, gifs, photos, links
- #CapitalizeEachWordOfAHashtag
- Social Media accessibility best practices

https://accessibility.umn.edu/tutorials/accessible-e-social-media







Thank you!!!











UF FLORIDA

SciComm101



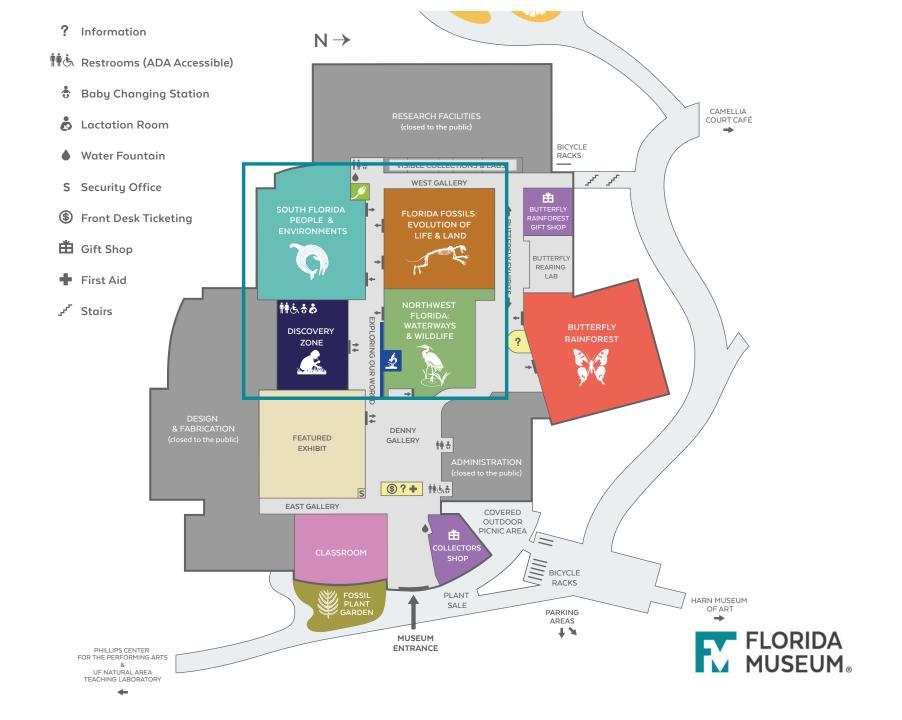
And... how do I take better photos?

Kristen Grace
FM photographer and @floridamuseum Instagram manager

Assignment | Part 1

- Use your camera, tablet or smartphone to take photos of three different objects in our exhibits (excluding the Butterfly Rainforest and Amazing Pollinators)
- Take note or photograph info panel for later activity
- One of the three final images can be a selfie with related object in background
- Keep in mind these images may be shared with group











65% 65% of us are visual learners

80% Colored visuals increase people's desire to reac content by 80%.

85% People are 85% more likely to buy your product after watching a video about it.

93% of all communication is visual. This is why visuals attract our attention and affect our attitude.

180% Posts with images produce 180% more engagement.

Our brain processes visuals **60,000** times faster than text

Source

https://venngage.com/blog/marketing-psychology/



How I use my visuals

Multimedia projects:

- Monarchs in Mexico
- Field classrooms with Museum researchers
 - Becoming Visible

Visuals for Museum science stories

Event coverage and Marketing

Visuals for exhibits:

- 100th Anniversary

floridamuseum



























"iPhoneography"

- Don't be afraid of the selfie stick, and don't just use it for selfies!
- Yes to weird angles
- Shortcut to camera from home screen
- Tap on screen where you want to focus
- Slide "sun" to adjust exposure
- Use HDR to help with exposure
- Use burst
- Play with filters, but don't overdo it stick to reality



Things to remember

- Clean your camera lens
- Move in closer, don't zoom
- Avoid using the built-in flash if you can
- Steady yourself to minimize blur
- The back camera takes better quality photos
- Use the timer, especially for selfies







A good image needs:

light

Composition

subject matter

and focus













Observe light Get creative and
use it to your
advantage!



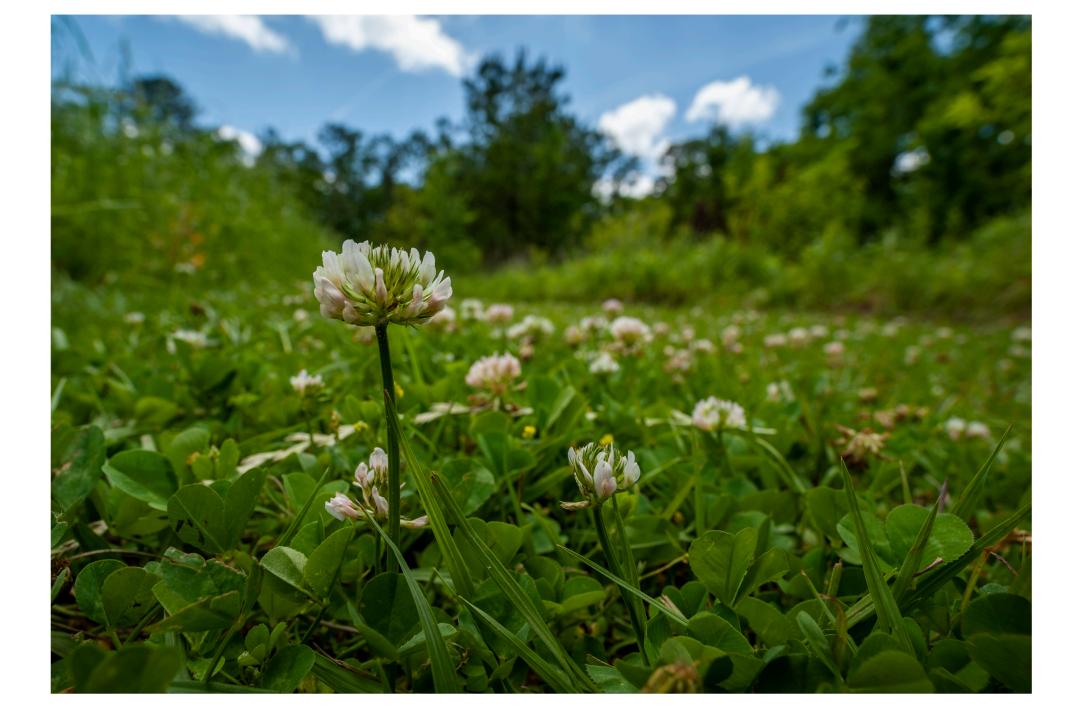


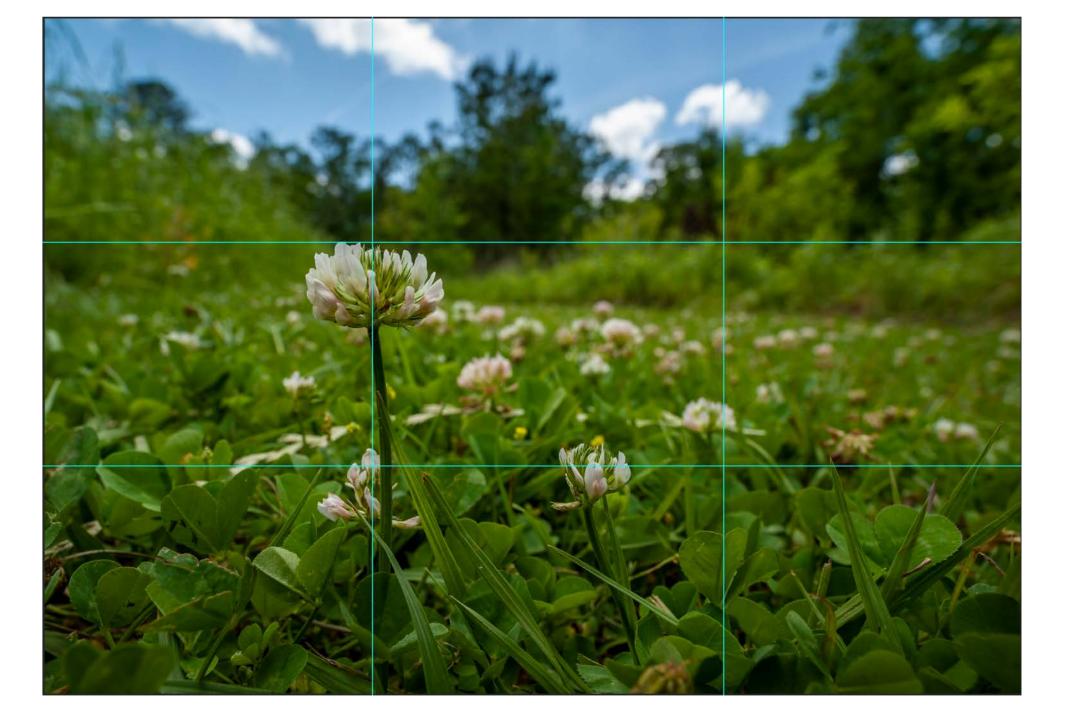
Light can add depth and texture







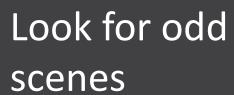










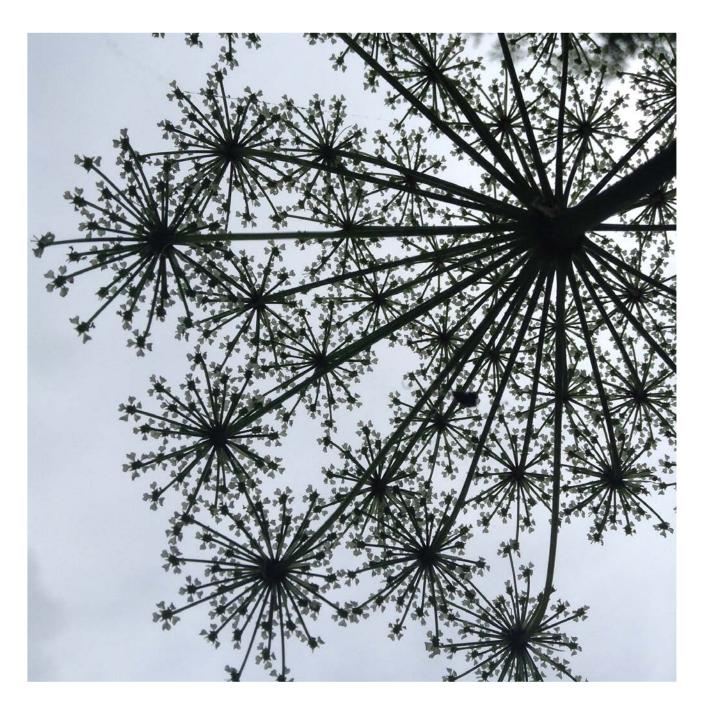




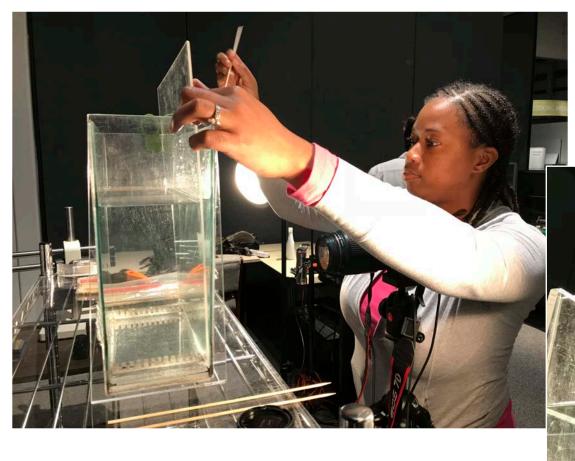


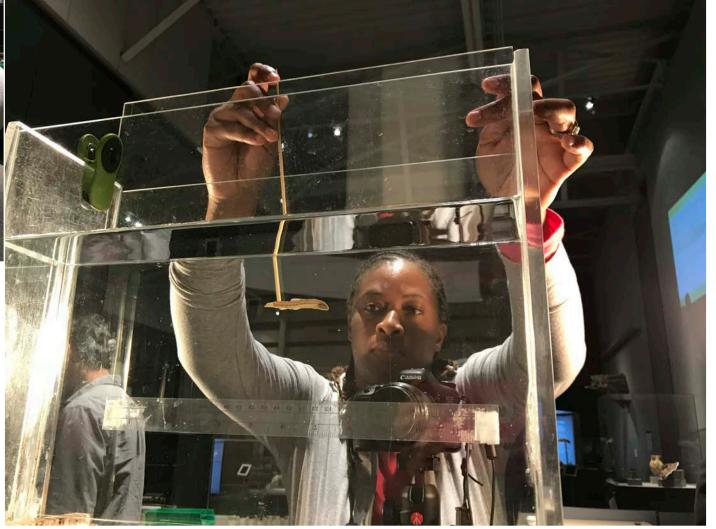












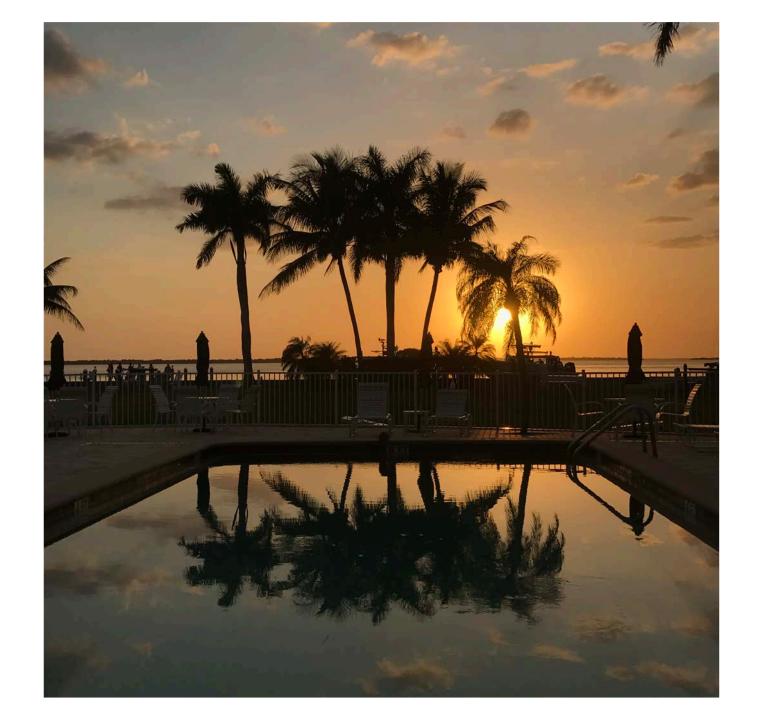






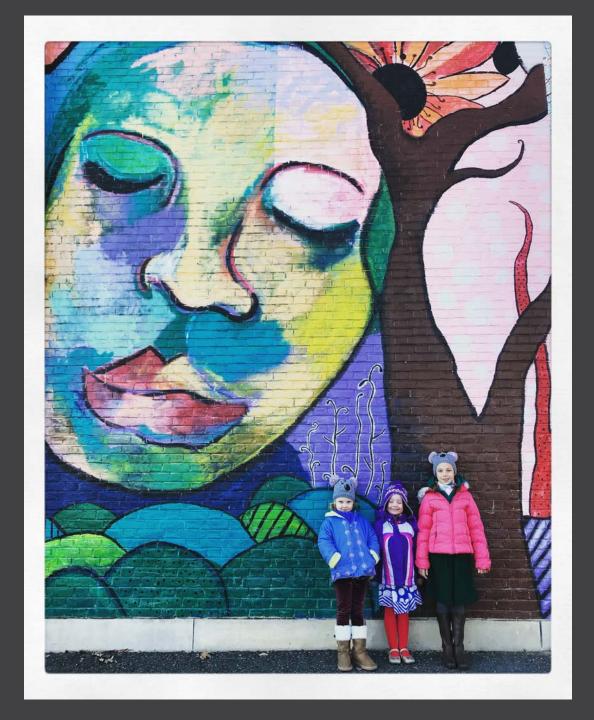
Use composition to frame your subject and add context







Look for color patterns, balance and juxtaposition





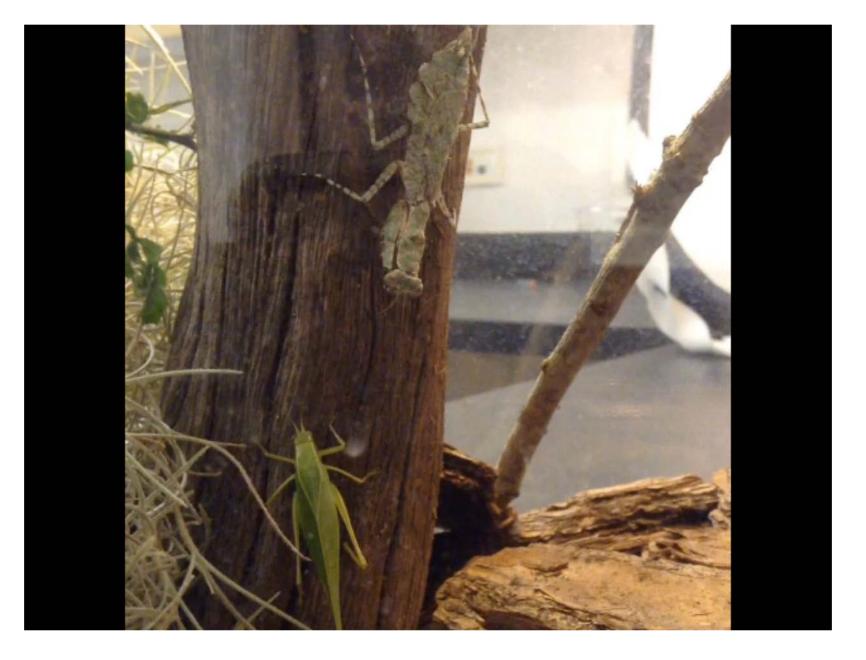


Selfie game –

make it relevant









SciComm | Conservation Photogs on Ista I like to follow:

Lary Reeves - <a>@biodiversilary

Mac Stone - @macstonephoto

Peter Houlihan - <a>@peterhoulihan

Jennifer Adler - @jmadler

Carlton Ward - @carltonward



Other resources:

- Photographer Challenges Himself to Shoot Fantastic Photos With a \$1 Camera
- https://buzzsumo.com/blog/how-to-massively-boost-your-blog-traffic-with-these-5-awesome-image-stats/
- https://expertphotography.com/the-complete-guide-to-smartphone-photography-96-tips/



Now take these tips and go photograph the world!

For starters... let's revisit that assignment...

- Retake the three photos you submitted at the beginning of this presentation
- See if you can improve your photos by trying some of these techniques
- Email them when you return and we will look for improvements! Again, please put your name in the subject line.

kgrace@floridamuseum.ufl.edu

SHARING YOUR SCIENCE ONLINE

Rebecca Burton
Communications Manager
UF Thompson Earth Systems Institute

Allie Blackwell Project Assistant iDigBio









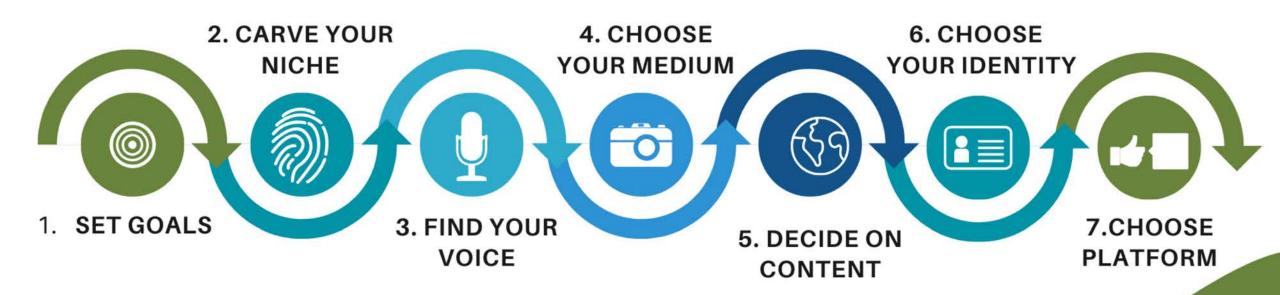


WHY?

- To reach a broader audience
- To be competitive in the job market
- To make professional connections
- To add value to grant applications
- To help you understand your work better



MAPPING YOUR DIGITAL PRESENCE





STEP 1: SET GOALS

- I want to be competitive in the job market.
- I want to meet other scientists in my field.
- I want to build community around a particular topic/group.
- I want to share my science with a broader audience/underrepresented audience.
- I want to inspire the next generation to pursue my field!
- I want to rally support for science-based information.
- All of the above!



STEP 2: CHOOSE YOUR IDENTITY



Myself, a person who is also a scientist.



I am a scientist only. It's all I talk about.



This identity curates content related to shark science.





EXAMPLES: INDIVIDUALS







samantha yammine phd (she/her) .

Scientist

Neuroscientist × Science Storyteller anything science, anywhere & everywhere (... but mostly in the captions)

Resources & Bookings *heysciencesam.com/

Followed by spacenationorbit, stories.of.a.scientist, cosplayforscience + 21 more











STEM gifts! rice rant speaking

tv / radio / yt

ig faves



EXAMPLES: TOPICS



Cosplay for Science

@Cosplay4Science Follows you

We're scientists who #cosplay. . . for educational purposes and #scicomm. Tag your educational cosplays #cosplayforscience

1,192 Following 1,102 Followers

Followed by Scott Miller, Bailey Blanchard, and 58 others you follow



Home

Welcome to our site!

Climate change is one of the biggest problems facing humanity and life on Earth today, and one of the most fundamentally misunderstood scientific theories is evolution. You've probably heard about climate change and evolution in the news and on social media, but what are these concepts, and how do we know they're 'real'? We've made the site to help you understand more about both of these concepts and answer some questions, such as:





Know Your Florida

Educational Research Center

Get to know your state, your nature, your history-- your Florida. A program led by @uflorida Thompson Earth Systems Institute based at @floridamuseum. www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/earthsystems/know-your-florida/

Followed by ufcals, currentproblemsfl, andylievertz + 11 more



STEP 3: CARVE YOUR NICHE

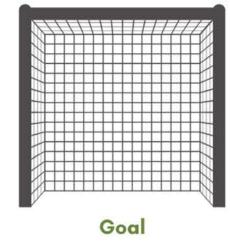












The more specific, the better.

Your niche helps you choose which content to curate.



EXAMPLE: WOMEN OF FISHERIES

Research area:

Fisheries

Additional interest/gap:

Roles of women in a maledominated field



Goal:

To create a community of women fisheries scientists to be able to talk about issues in the field.



DESCRIBE YOUR NICHE

I will curate science-based content about [insert field of study] as it relates to [insert additional interest/research gap] with a goal of [insert your main goal].



STEP 4: FIND YOUR VOICE AND TONE









WHAT IS A VOICE









WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- It helps to form connections and relationships online
- It makes your social media content standout





FIND YOUR VOICE

- Be yourself. Be authentic.
 Don't try to mimic the style of others.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What is the general vibe of your brand(you)?
- What does your brand sound like?



VOICE VS TONE

Voice = Personality

Tone = Mood













QUESTION

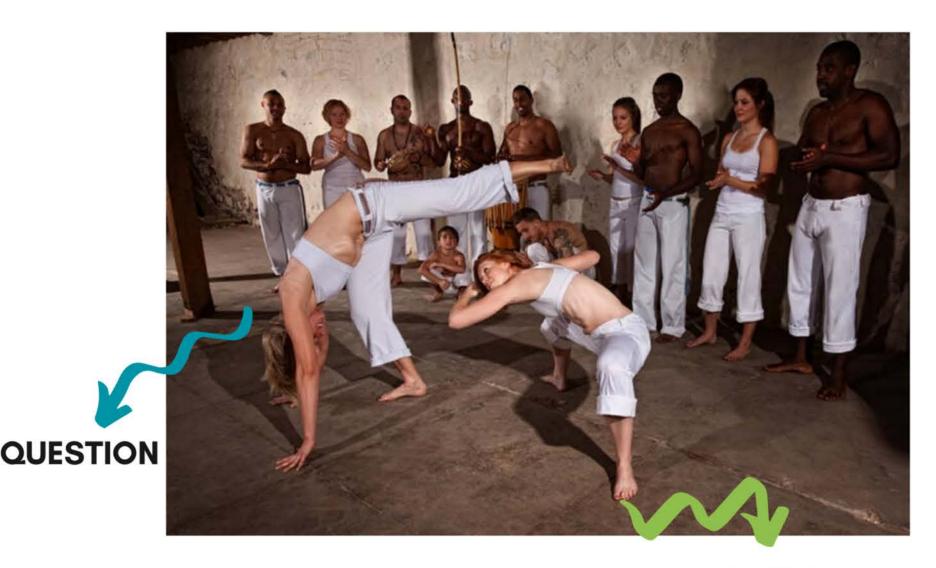
ANSWER





QUESTION



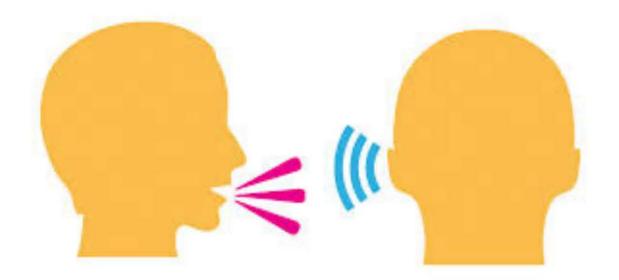






https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXnMVRsYaVI

- Adjust your tone to each platform
 Listen to the community
 Speak their language, on their terms





STEP 5: FIND YOUR PERFECT MEDIUM

I communicate best through...





STEP 6: DECIDE WHAT TO COMMUNICATE

Possible prompts:

- Current research in your field
- Commentary on news related to your field
- Translate peer-reviewed articles for lay audiences
- Basic scientific concepts (but in a fun way)
- Experiences from the field to humanize your science
- Fun facts related to your field of research

Again, when planning content, refer to your goal.



STEP 7: CHOOSE YOUR PLATFORM(S)



Questions to answer:

- Which best matches my goal?
- Where is my target audience at?
- Which matches my preferred tone/medium?



PLATFORMS AT A GLANCE





Pros:

- Most popular globally
- So many options!
- Excellent scheduling/analytics for pages
- Virtual communities galore
- Longer shelf life of posts

Cons:

- Algorithm, posts may only go to folks already interested
- Gives preferential treatment to paid content
- Privacy concerns
- · Lacks accessibility

Pros:

- Heavily used by scientists/journalists
- Good for building community & make professional connections
- Hashtags help your content be discovered.
- Microblog
- A great platform to establish your virtual personality

Cons:

- Not the most popular platform
- Can be an echo chamber
- Character limits can be difficult (though threads are a workaround)



PLATFORMS AT A GLANCE



Pros:

- Large audience
- Visual
- Hashtags an easy way to discover/get discovered
- Stories is a powerful tool to show your work

Cons:

- Alogorithm can limit who sees your post
- Preference for paid content
- Hyperlinks/GIFS don't work



Pros:

- Second most popular
- Great for science "How to" videos
- Can be repurposed on other platforms

Cons:

- Videos take time/resources to do them well
- Needs to be content people would search for anyway
- Sometimes your videos get more reach if you post them directly to Facebook



PLATFORMS AT A GLANCE





- Younger audiences
- Use interactive and fun effects to produce video content
- Great platform to humanize science
- Perfect platform for humor-based content

Cons:

- Not viewed as "serious"
- Content can be considered ephemeral



Pros:

- Flex your writing skills!
- Produce longer form content
- Can repurpose on other platforms you use
- Interact and get feedback from other writers

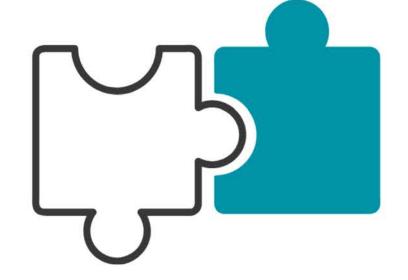
Cons:

- Depending on what you want to do, Wordpress can cost money
- Need to orient people to these sites using other platforms



TIPS: MAKE A STRATEGY

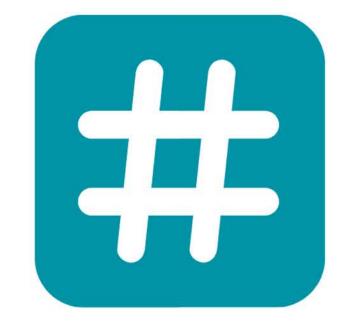
- Be consistent
- Don't be overzealous
- Stay committed





TIPS: USE THE POWER OF THE #HASHTAG

- Use simple hashtags
- Don't overdo it
- Know some trending hashtags





TIPS: FOCUS ON QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY

- Use retweeting sparingly. Try to choose impactful science stories to retweet
- Don't hit the share button and call it a day



TIPS: BE ENGAGED IN THE #SCICOMM COMMUNITY

- Comment on posts by others.
- Follow people who inspire you.
- Pay attention to #scicomm hub pages.



TIPS: USE VISUALS

- Posts with videos attract 3X more clicks than text-only posts
- Facebook posts from brands that included images earned 87 percent of all engagements, (eMarketer)
- Tweets with images earned up to 150 percent more retweets(Buffer)



ACTIVITY

Task: Craft a brief bio paragraph for the platform of your choice.

Goal: To create your digital first impression.

Identity: You are speaking as yourself, as an expert in the field.

Niche: Use the niche you crafted earlier.

Voice: Whatever comes naturally to you!

Platform: You choose! Keep in mind character limits/hashtags



EXAMPLE

Platform: Wordpress

MY NAME IS ALLIE. YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW
IT, BUT SOME EXTRAORDINARY
SCIENTISTS AROUND THE WORLD ARE
DOING SOME EVEN MORE
EXTRAORDINARY THINGS. IT'S MY JOB TO
TELL THEIR STORIES.



Alnycea

My name is Allie. You might not know it, but some extraordinary scientists around the world are doing some even more extraordinary things. It's my job to tell their stories.

VISIT PROFILE



COMBINING TEXT & IMAGES





ACTIVITY

Task: Drawing your writing and photography from earlier, craft a social media post complete with either a photo and/or graphic and caption. Could be a teaser post for your blog post.

Goal: To get people outside your field excited about it

Identity: You are speaking as yourself, as an expert in the field.

Niche: Use the niche you crafted earlier.

Voice/Tone: Whatever comes naturally to you!

Platform: You choose! Keep in mind character limits/hashtags



TELL US HOW WE DID

bit.ly/scicommdig