

# Academic / Technical Writing

in Computer Science

Part II, Topic 8:

# Writing: a Research Support Workflow



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M.Sci Programme in CS - DS



# Plan

## SCOPE: **all together, methodologically**

- Writing and Presenting in **Research Workflow**
- **Performance** in Writing and Presenting
- **Scientific Method** – the backbone
- **Writing** and **Presenting** Workflow
  - **Phases, outputs, and milestones**
- Important things **beyond your control** (so far)
  - **Time constraints**
  - **Resource constraints**
  - **Reviewing bias**
  - **Remedies**
- **Final Remarks**

# Credits

- Many thanks to all those, whose
  - Images
  - Slide samples and fragments
  - Papers
  - Ideas
  - Recommendations
  - Statements
  - Practices
  - Political slogans

I used or cited while preparing this material

- All the bits are carefully referenced throughout this slide set

# Disclaimer

- All citations, textual or pictorial, used in this slide-set are provided for illustrative purposes ONLY
- The use of these citations does not mean expressing any support or otherwise critique of the authors / owners and their respective views
  - Just a bit of attitude, perhaps ...



# Research (Support) Activities

# Research (Project) Workflow

- Research organized and managed **project-wise**
- So, **project management** approach and practice
- Research is:
  - For **innovation**
  - To gain **knowledge**
- Hence: **knowledge projects** (e,g, FP7 ACTIVE\*)
  - **Loosely defined** plans
  - **Distributed** responsibility
  - **Agile** and **repetitive** activities
  - **Risk** assessment and remedy
  - **Dissemination** and **knowledge transfer**
  - Support activities



\* **ACTIVE** was the European FP7 Integrating Project (2008-2010) that aimed to increase the productivity of knowledge workers in a pro-active, contextualized, yet easy and unobtrusive way.

# Kinds of Activities

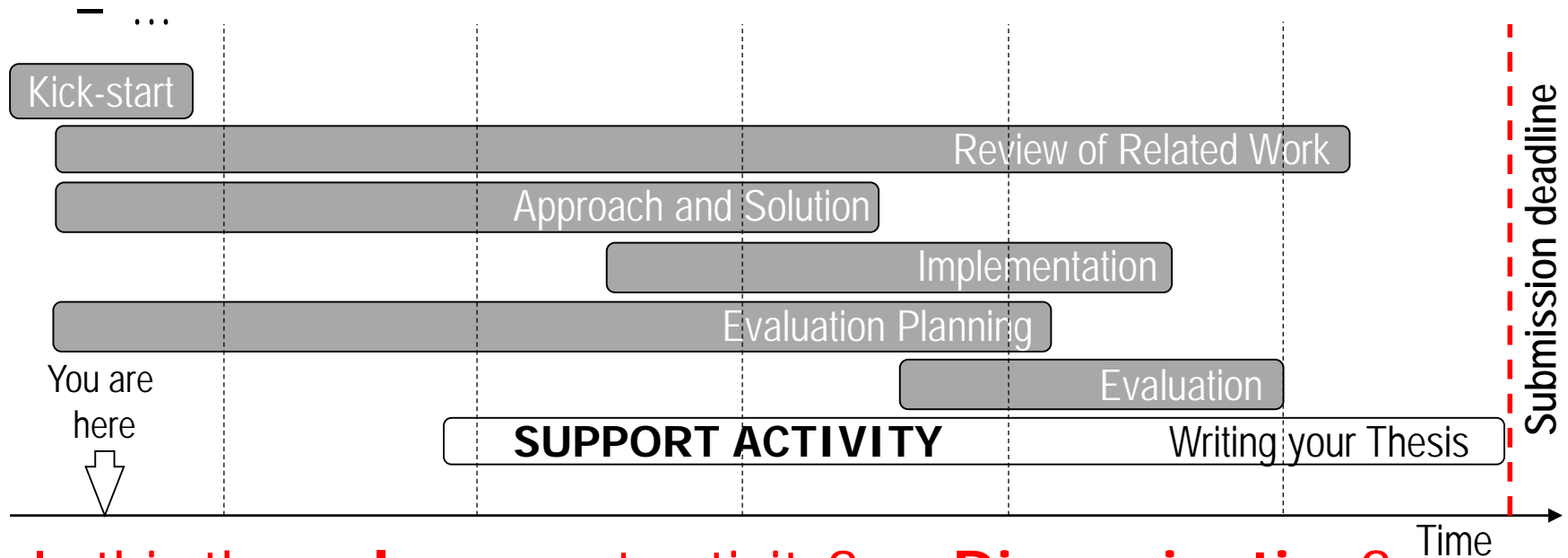
What **falls into?** - In **CS** and **DS**  
Is this **within**  
**the scope?**

- **Research**
  - Exploratory, theoretical, experimental
- **Research Support**
  - Development (software, infrastructure), education, **writing** (reports, all kinds of)
- **Dissemination** (within support)
  - **Writing** (papers, books), **talking** and **presenting**, networking
- **Knowledge Transfer**
  - Licensing, deployment, spinning-off
- **Management**

**Out of  
our scope**

# A Master Project Gantt

- Based on **commitments** (beyond your control):
  - Secure your **topic** – mentor
  - Get your project **approved** – Program Mngmt
    - **Propose**
    - Get **accepted**



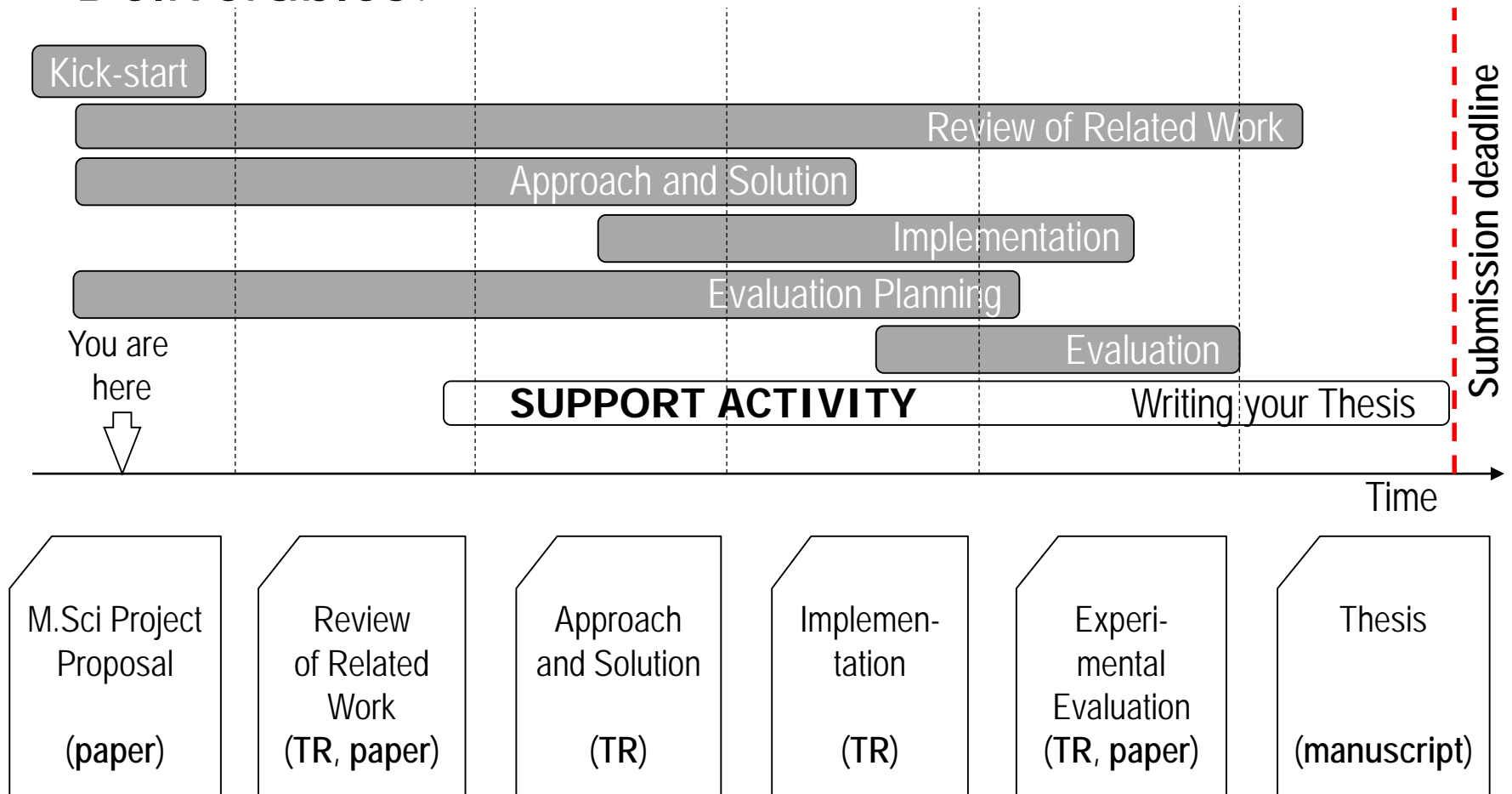
Is this the **only** support activity?

**Dissemination?**



# A Support Workflow

- Deliverables:



# A Support Workflow



# Performance

# Performance

- **Matzke**: Intentional (purposeful, goal-directed) **action**\*
- Integral **measure**:
  - **Neely**\*\* : P measurement "... quantifying the **efficiency** and **effectiveness** of past actions..."
  - **Rolstadas**\*\*\* : A complex interrelationship between SEVEN criteria: **Effectiveness, Efficiency, Quality, Productivity, Quality of Work Life, Innovation, Profitability / Budgetability**

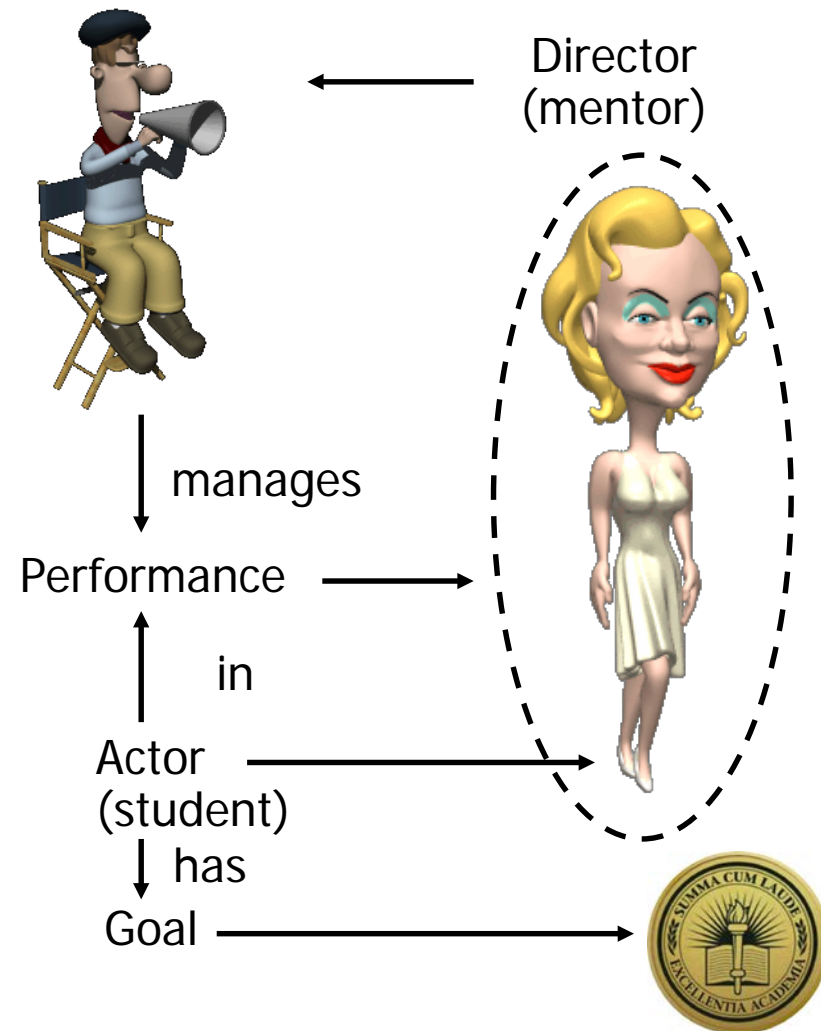
\* Ermolayev, V. Matzke, W.-E.: Towards Industrial Strength Business Performance Management. HoloMAS 2007: 387-400

\*\* Neely, A.D., Adams, C. and Kennerley, M. (2002), The Performance Prism: The Scorecard for Measuring and Managing Stakeholder Relationships, Financial Times/Prentice Hall, London.

\*\*\* Rolstadas, A. (Ed.): Performance management: a business process benchmarking approach. Springer Netherlands (1995) DOI: 10.1007/978-94-011-1212-3

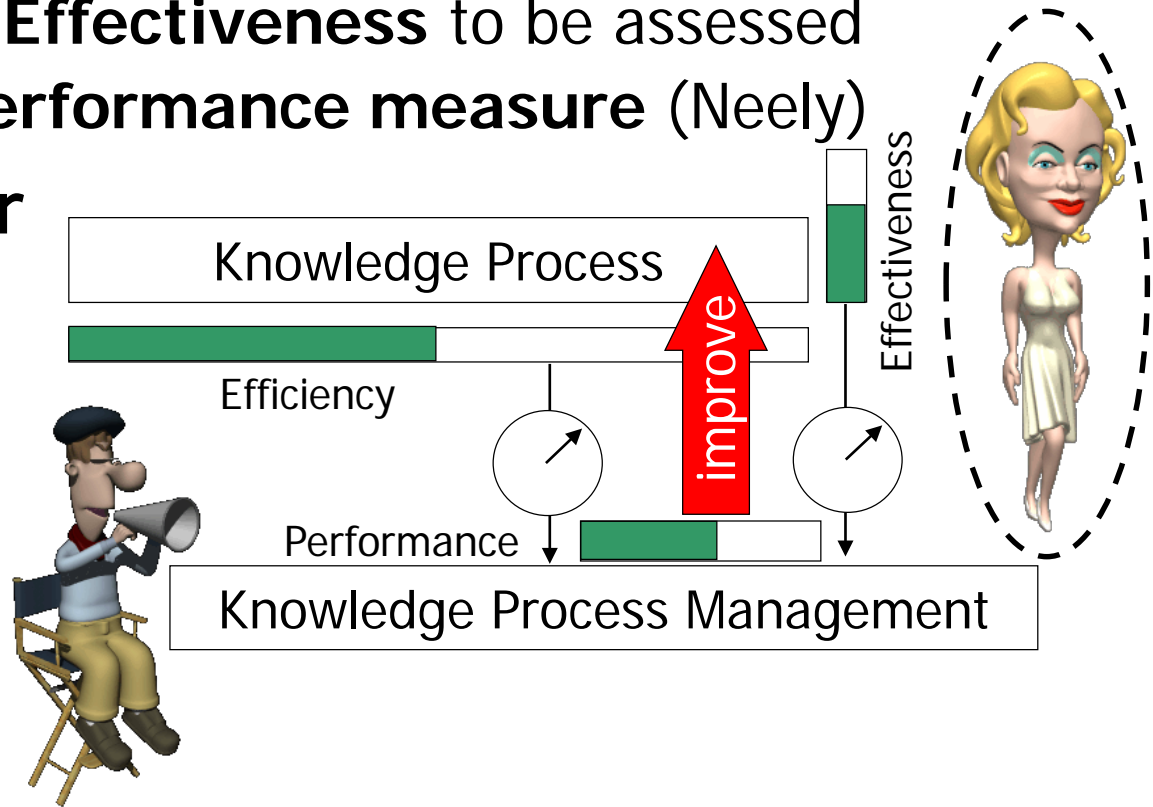
# Performance as Action

- As a **Master** student
  - You have a **goal**
  - You **act** to meet it
- You **perform**
- Performance to be **managed (directed)**
  - To **meet the goal**
- **You** hire your **mentor**
  - Tricky
  - Many think that vice-versa




# Performance as Measure

- In your case, **performance** (action)
  - A **knowledge process**
  - **Efficiency** and **Effectiveness** to be assessed
  - Indicate your **performance measure** (Neely)
- Used by **mentor**
- To **improve** performance
- **Efficiency?**
- **Effectiveness?**



# Efficiency

## efficiency noun

ef·fi·ci·en·cy | \ i -'fi -shən -sē  \

*plural* **efficiencies**

### Definition of *efficiency*

- 1 : the quality or degree of being efficient
- 2 **a** : efficient operation
  - b** (1) : effective operation as measured by a comparison of production with cost (as in energy, time, and money)
  - (2) : the ratio of the useful energy delivered by a dynamic system to the energy supplied to it

Merriam Webster Dictionary: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/efficiency>

- Re your **Cum Laude** goal:



- The **less** resource (time, effort, ...) spent
- The **higher** your efficiency is (if **effective?**)
- Ideally – **ZERO** resource
  - **Not realistic** – 1<sup>st</sup> lesson given by your **mentor**



# Effectiveness

## effective adjective

ef·fec·tive | \ i-'fek-tiv , e-, ē-, ə-\

### Definition of *effective* (Entry 1 of 2)

- 1 a** : producing a decided, decisive, or desired effect  
// an *effective* policy
- b** : IMPRESSIVE, STRIKING  
// a gold lamé fabric studded with *effective* ... precious stones  
— Stanley Marcus

Merriam Webster Dictionary: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/effectiveness>

- Re your **Cum Laude** goal:
  - **Degree** of produced decided, decisive, and desired **effect**
  - **Measured** as:
    - Your **sum**
    - On a **0 – 100 scale**

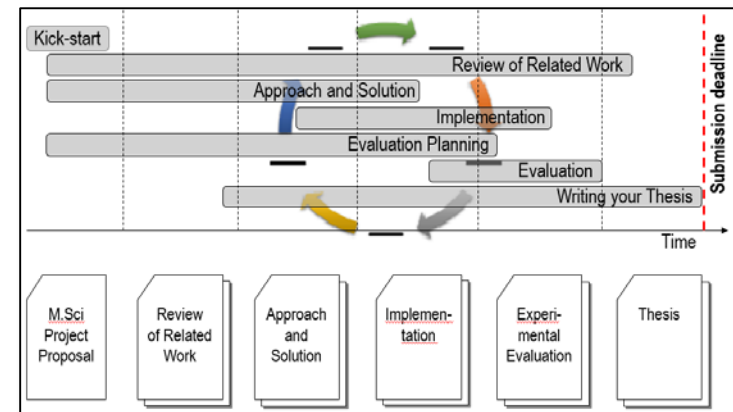
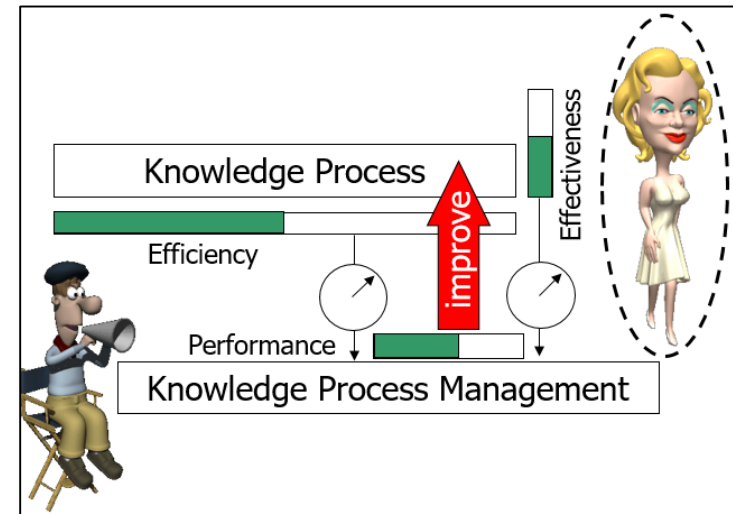


[90 - 100]



# Iterative ...

- Performance **improvement**
  - The **mentor-in-the-loop**
  - At least ...
- **Iterative** process(es)
- Iterations **induced by**:
  - Performance improvement **requirements**
  - **What else?**
- **Scientific method**
  - Iterative
    - Research activities – iterative
    - Support activities – iterative

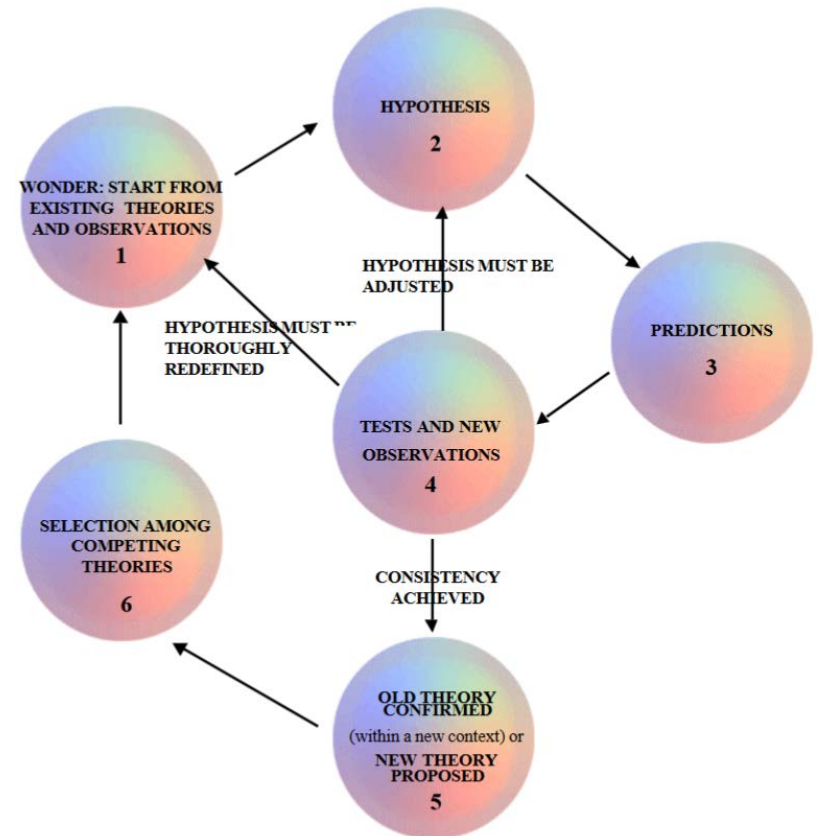


# Scientific Method

# To Recall ...

An **outline**\*:

- Very **similar** in different sciences / branches
  - Philosophy ... CS ... Medicine
- **Iterative**
  - Question (1)
  - Hypothesis (2)
  - Prediction (3)
  - Test (4)
  - Revision / Refinement (5)
  - Benchmarking (6)



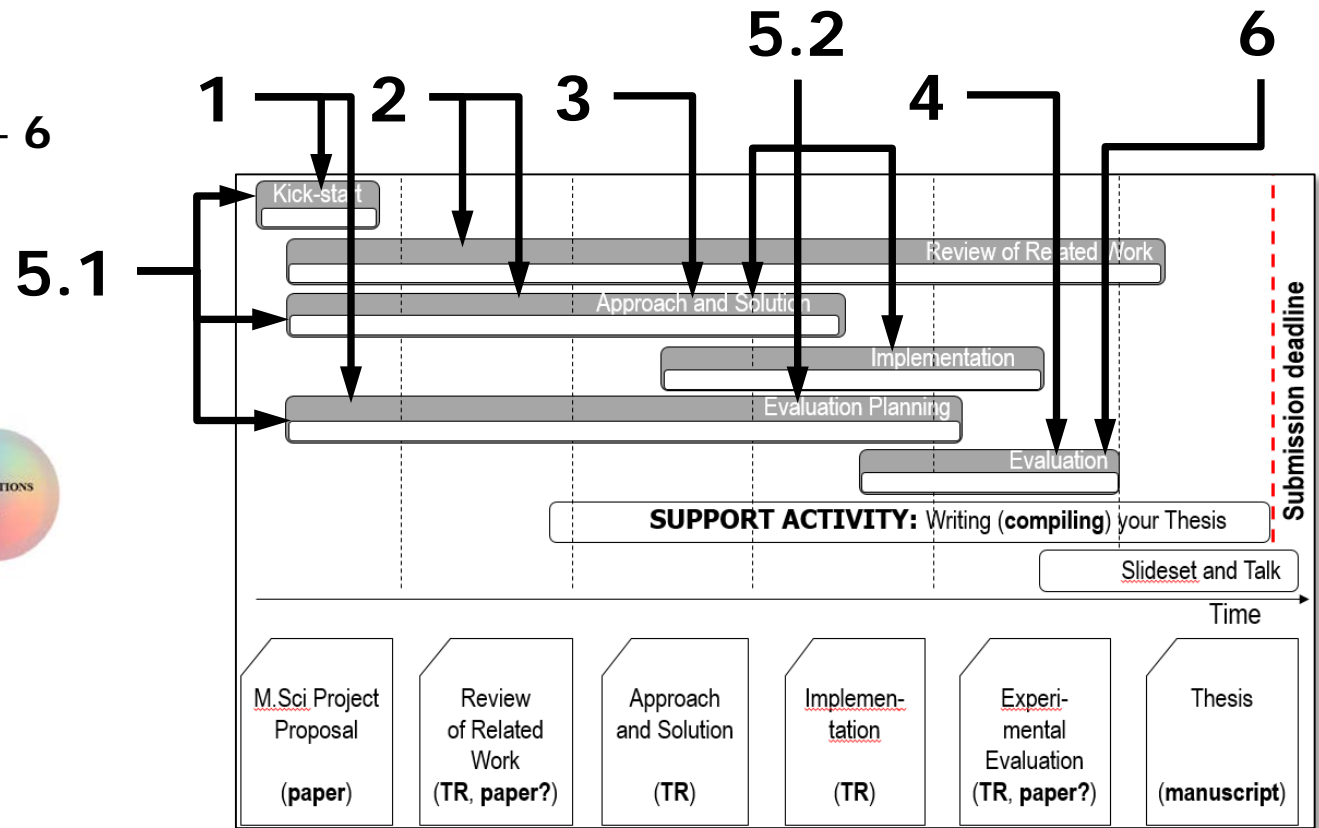
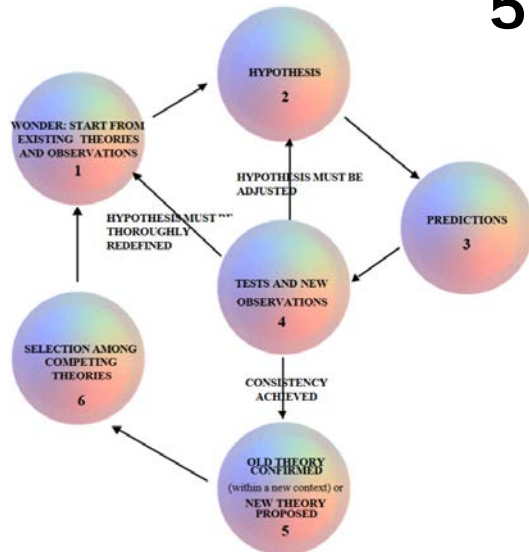
\* Dodig-Crnkovic, G.: Scientific Methods in Computer Science. Proc Conf for the Promotion of Research in IT at New Universities and at University Colleges in Sweden (2002)

# How does it Map?

Question (1) Hypothesis (2) Prediction (3) Test (4)  
Revision (5.1) / Refinement (5.2) Benchmarking (6)

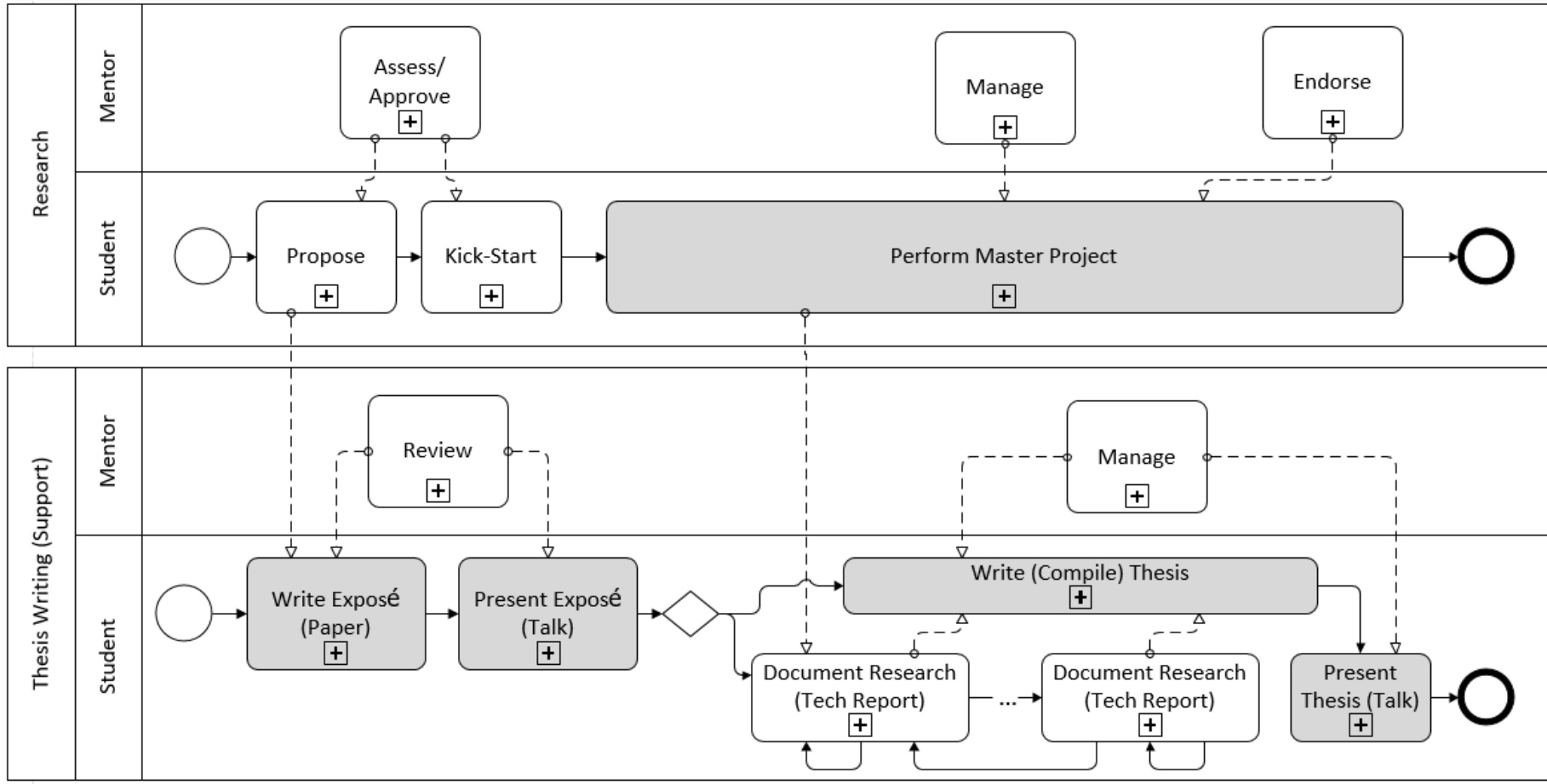
Iterations:

- 2 - 3 - 4
- 1 - 2 - 3 - 4
- 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6

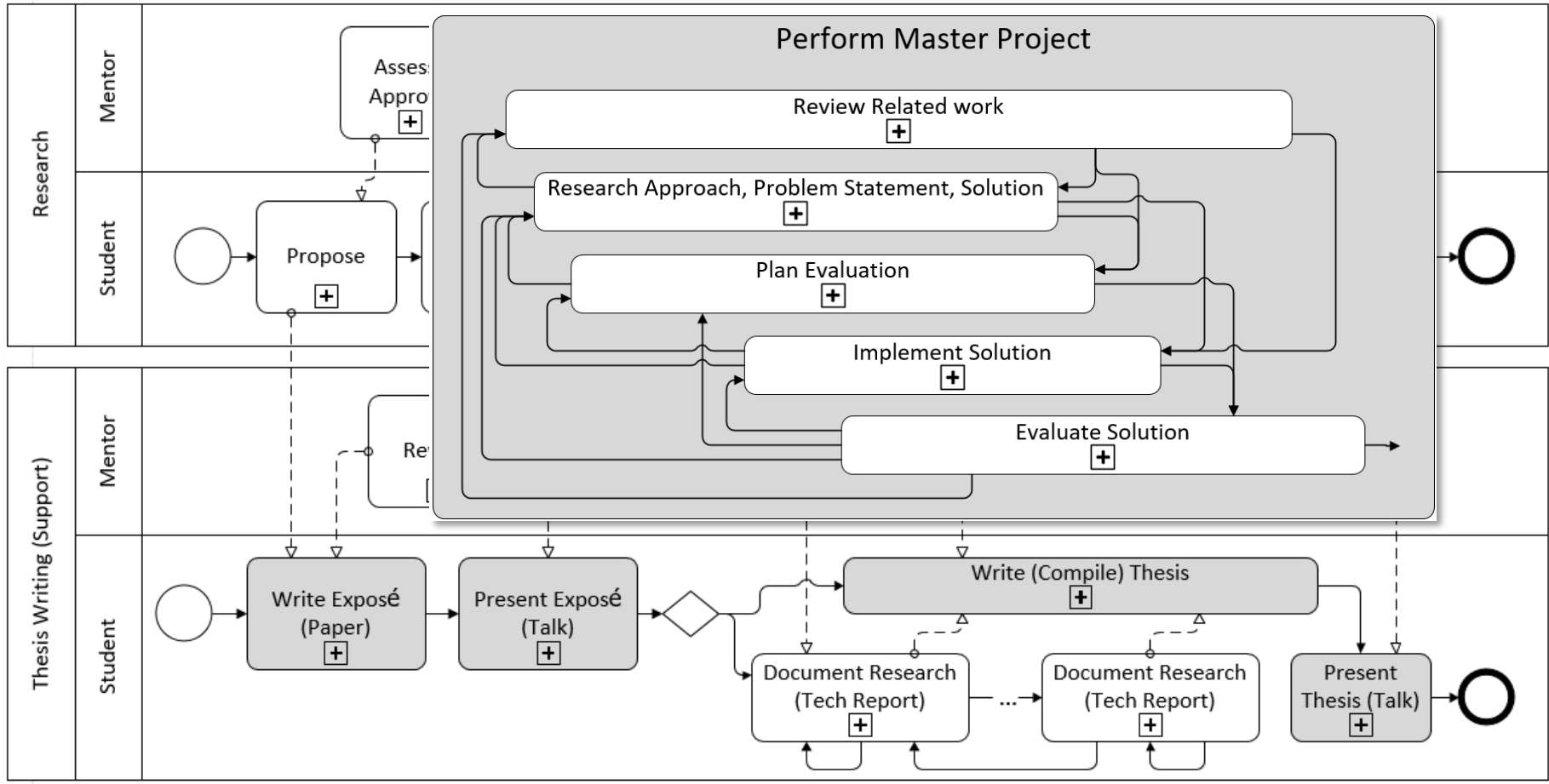


# Writing and Presenting Workflows

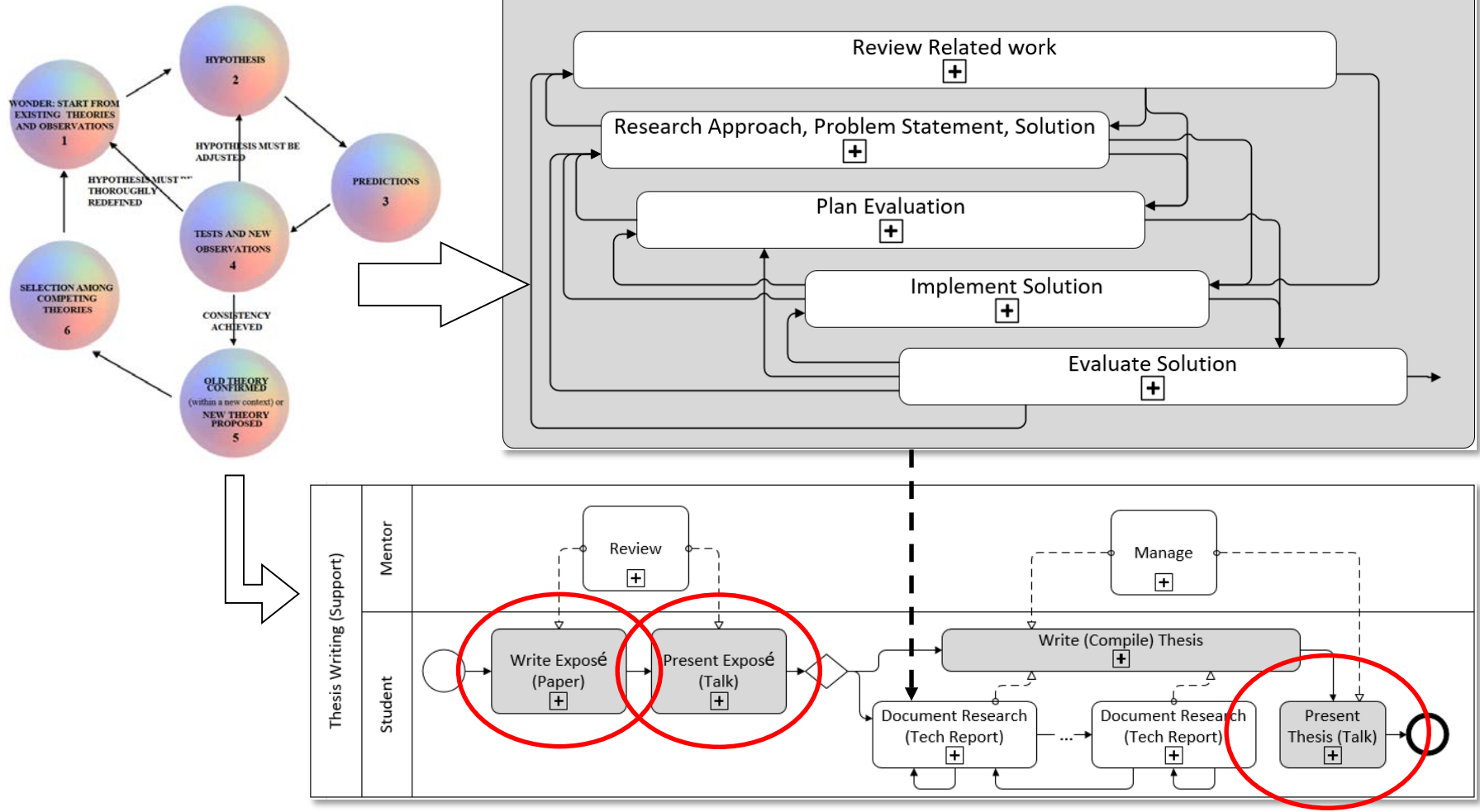
# Thesis Writing Workflow



# Thesis Writing Workflow

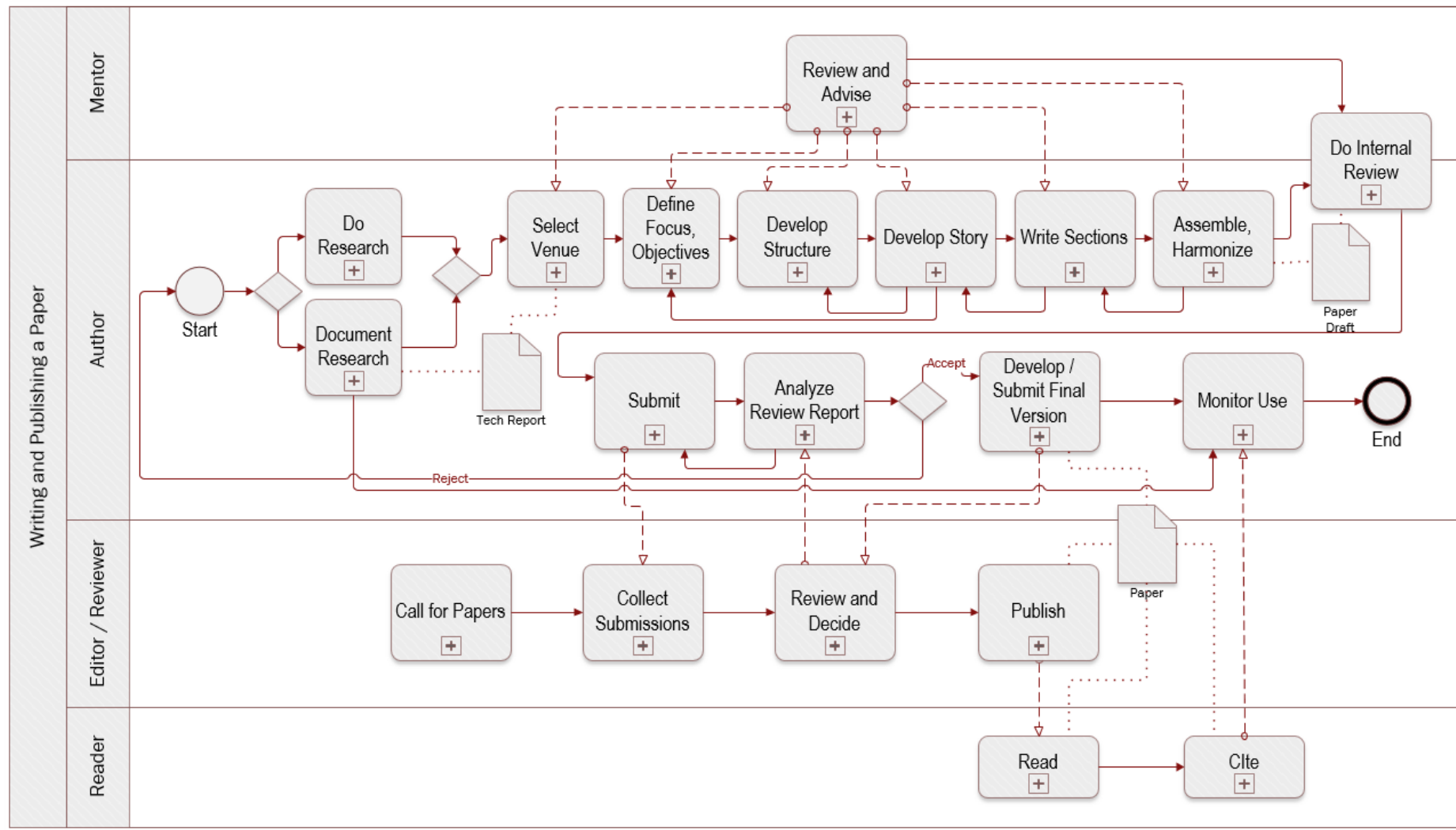


# TW Driven by Sci. Method

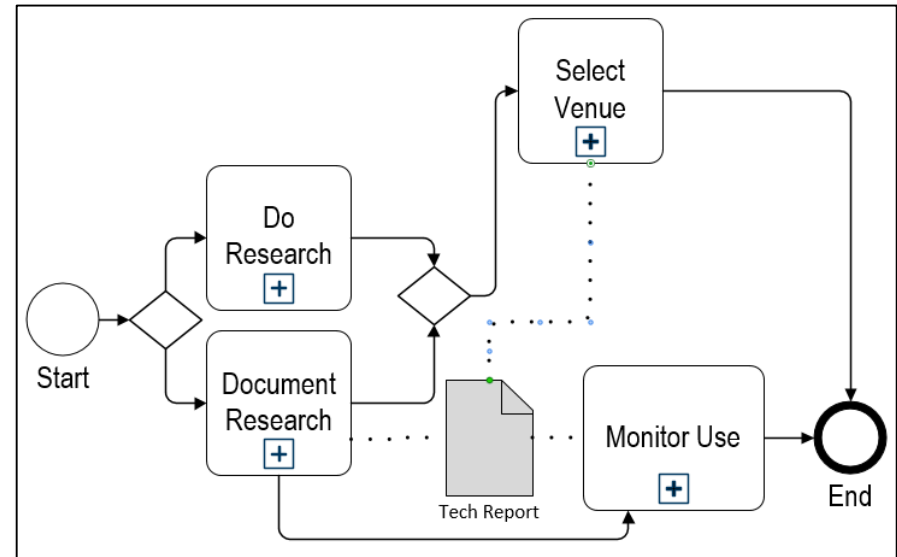




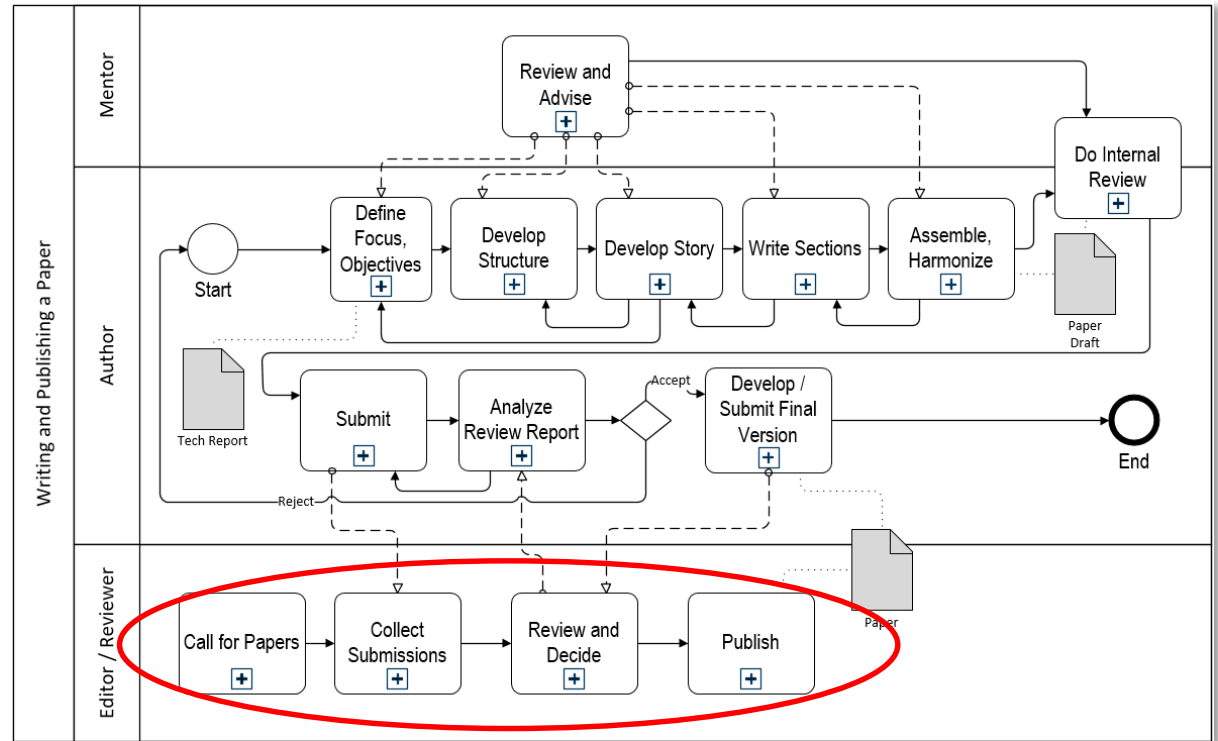
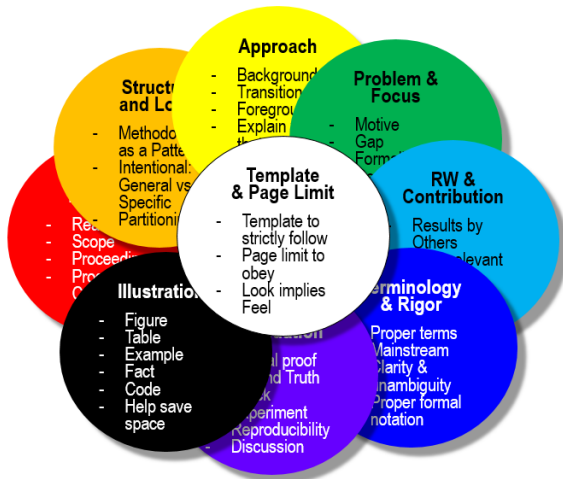
# Paper Writing Workflow



# Before Writing

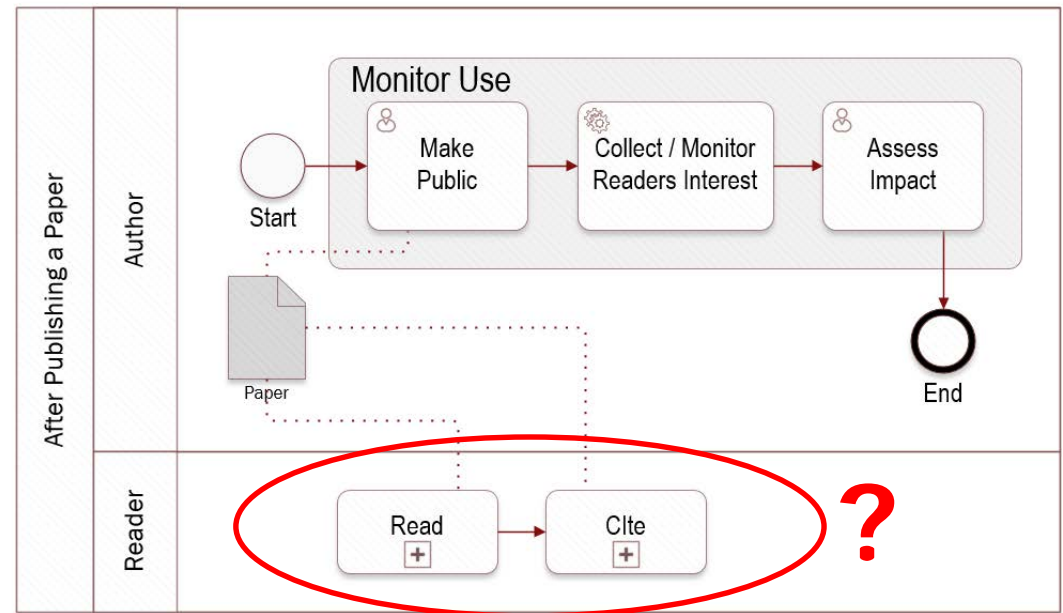
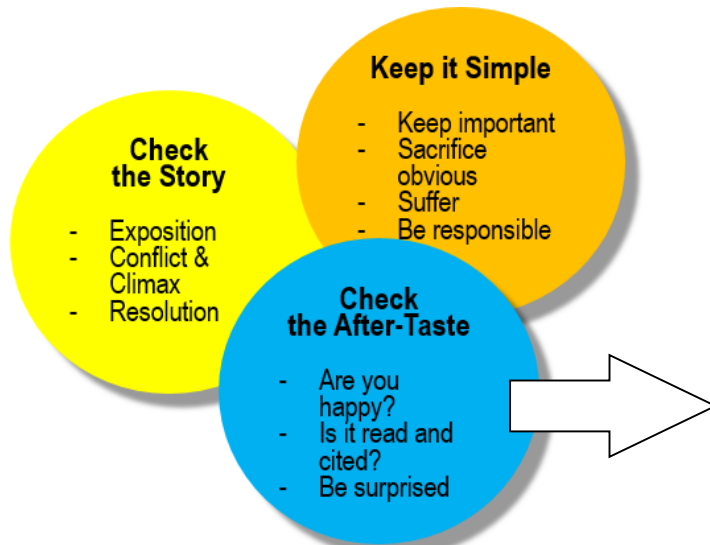


# While Writing

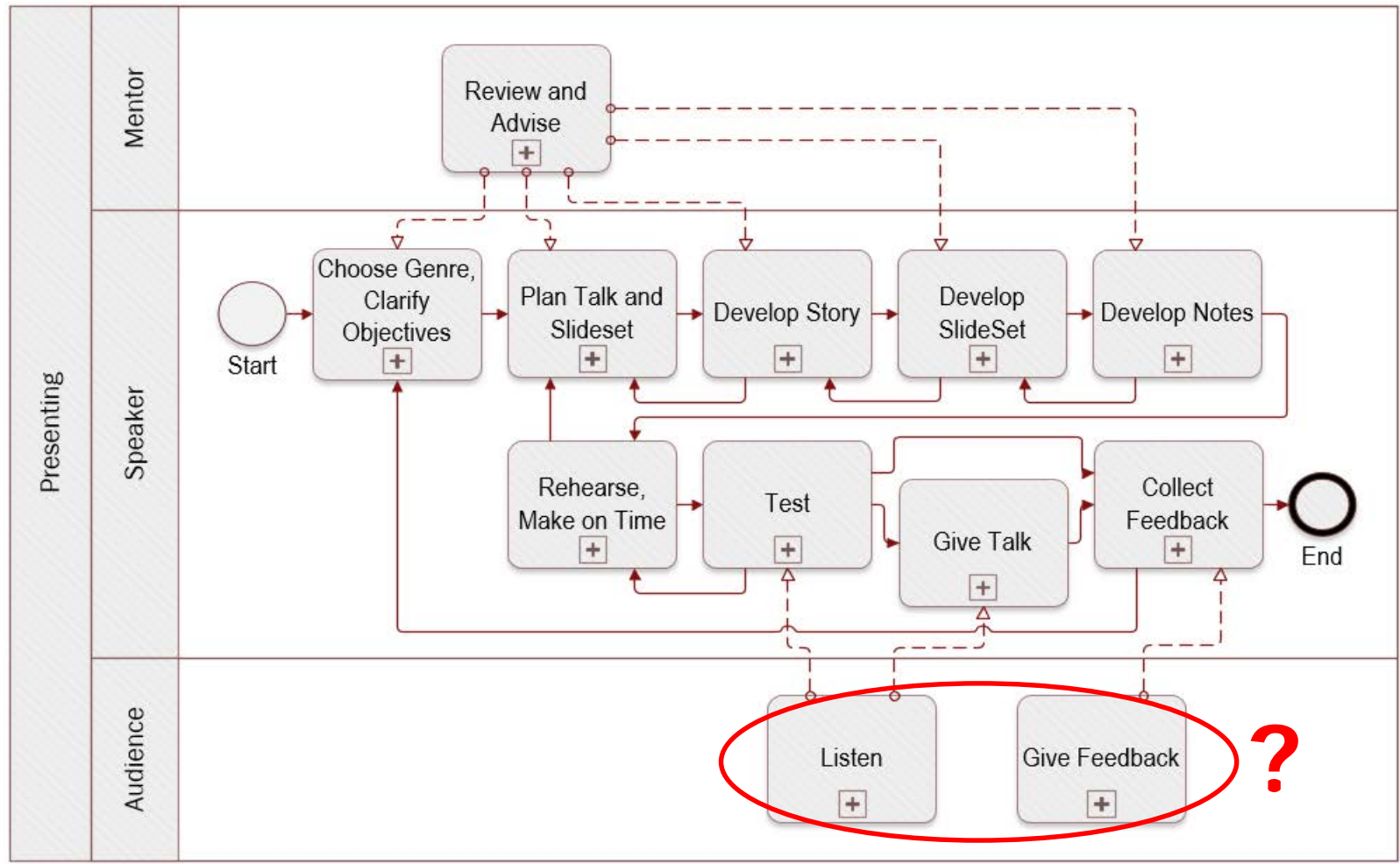


## Are these beyond your control?

# After-Taste ...



# Talking and Presenting



# Beyond Your Control

# Things You have to Accept

A.k.a. **do anyway**:

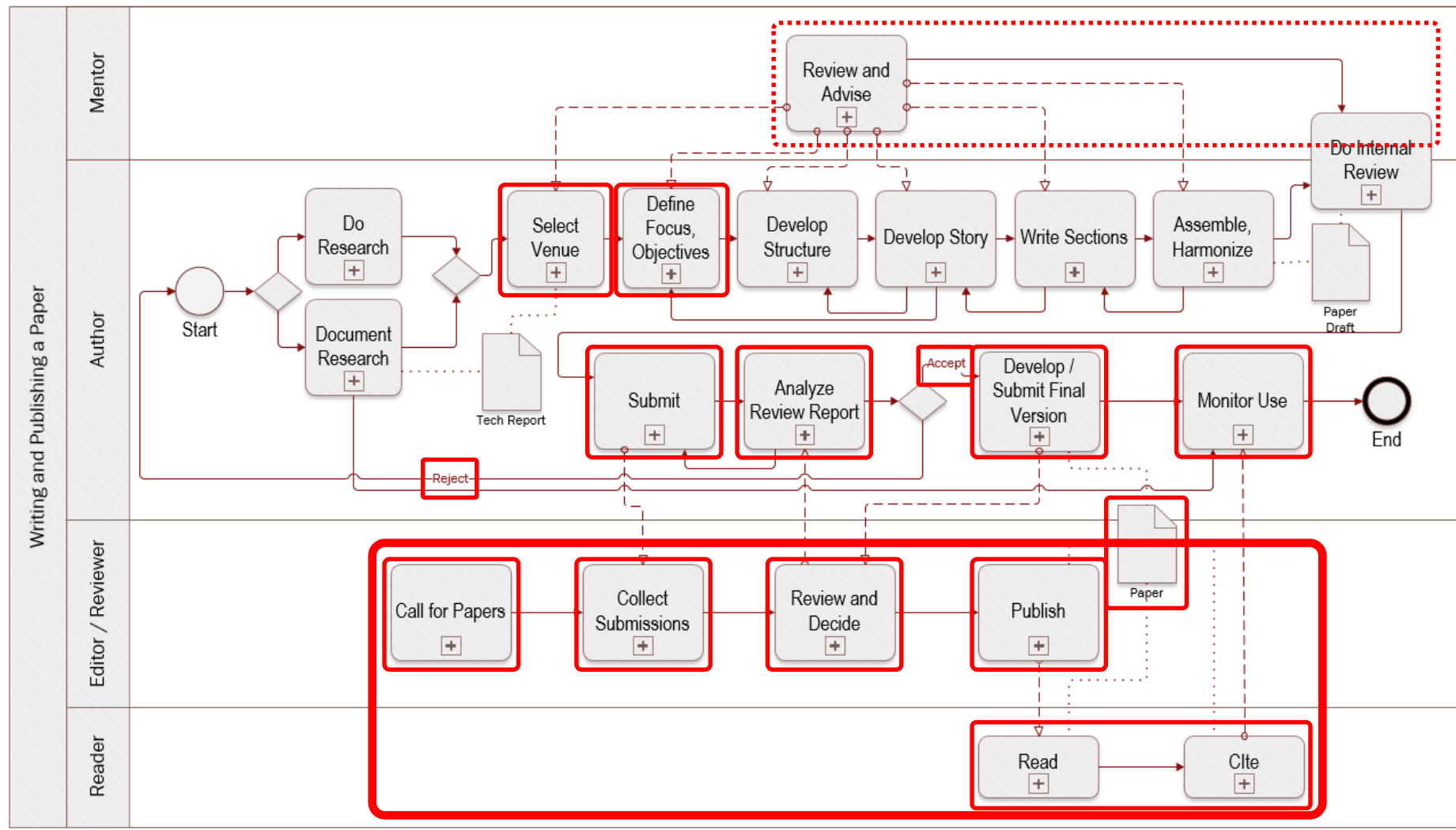
- Commitments (**research**):
  - **Proposal** (paper, published ..., presented ...)
  - **Project** (research, accomplished, goals achieved ...)
  - **Thesis** (written, as required, high quality ...)
  - **Defense Talk** (prepared, rehearsed, given, effectively)
- Deadlines (**hard**):
  - **Paper** – submission deadline
  - **Paper presentation** – conference program
  - **Thesis** – submission deadline
  - **Defense Talk** – schedule
- Also **softer** deadlines
  - by your **mentor, program director**

# How to Do ... Anyway ...

- For each **commitment**
  - Identify things **beyond** your **control**
  - Get informed about the **Rules of the Game**
  - Follow, **pro-actively**
  - Obey **deadlines**
  - Estimate **risks**
  - Be prepared to **remedy** (plan B)



# Paper: Things Beyond Control



# Paper: Rules of the Game

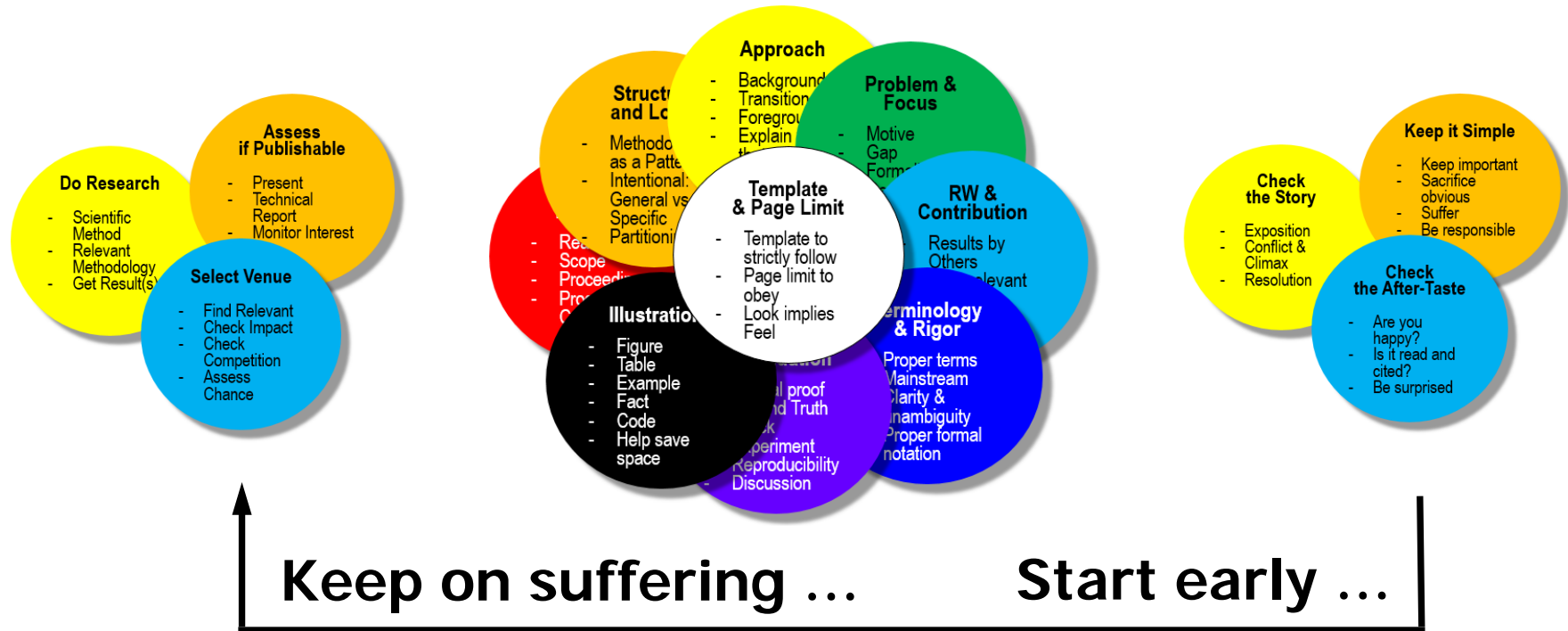
- Stuff discussed, in **detail**: Part II, Topic 6

You have to **work hard**

**Before** writing

**While** writing

**After** writing



# Paper: Risks and Remedies

- Material **not publishable**
  - Check early (Tech Rep, public, monitor interest)
  - Consult with mentor and senior colleagues (internal review)
- **No relevant CfP**
  - There is always something – conference portals, colleagues, mail lists
- **I can not meet the submission deadline**
  - Always have an unpublished piece (Tech Rep)



<http://twinsdaily.com/gallery/image/696-shifts-happen/>

# Paper: Risks and Remedies

- Review: **irrelevant**
  - Make sure that your **focus** falls into the **Scope** (CpP)
  - Choose a **more relevant** venue, **resubmit**
- Review: **reject on review criteria**
  - Check the **CfP**
  - **Tick all the boxes** in your paper
  - Make it **mature**, with all the **ingredients** in place
  - Check previous **proceedings** for good **examples**
- The paper was **positively** reviewed, but **rejected**
  - **Competition**: better papers were accepted
  - **Ranked** list and **fixed no** to accept



# Paper: Review Criteria

- Generally, correspond to **Scientific Method**
- E.g. MS-AMLV 2019:
  - **Focus, Contribution, and Relevance**
    - What is this submission about? What is the contribution? Is it within the scope of MS-AMLV?
  - **Novelty**
    - Are the presented results deemed as novel, compared to the State-of-the-Art?
  - **S/T Clarity, Correctness, and Maturity**
    - Are the results sufficiently supported by valid arguments and/or proofs? Does the manuscript present valid evidence of experimental evaluation?
  - **Presentation and Language**
    - Is the manuscript properly and logically structured? Are any important elements missing? Are the figures and tables readable and properly illustrate the narration? Is the use of English proper?
  - Readership **Interest**
    - Is the paper potentially interesting and useful for a professional reader? Do you expect it will be cited?

# In a Chair's View

## ICTERI 2019 Main Conference: Ranked List

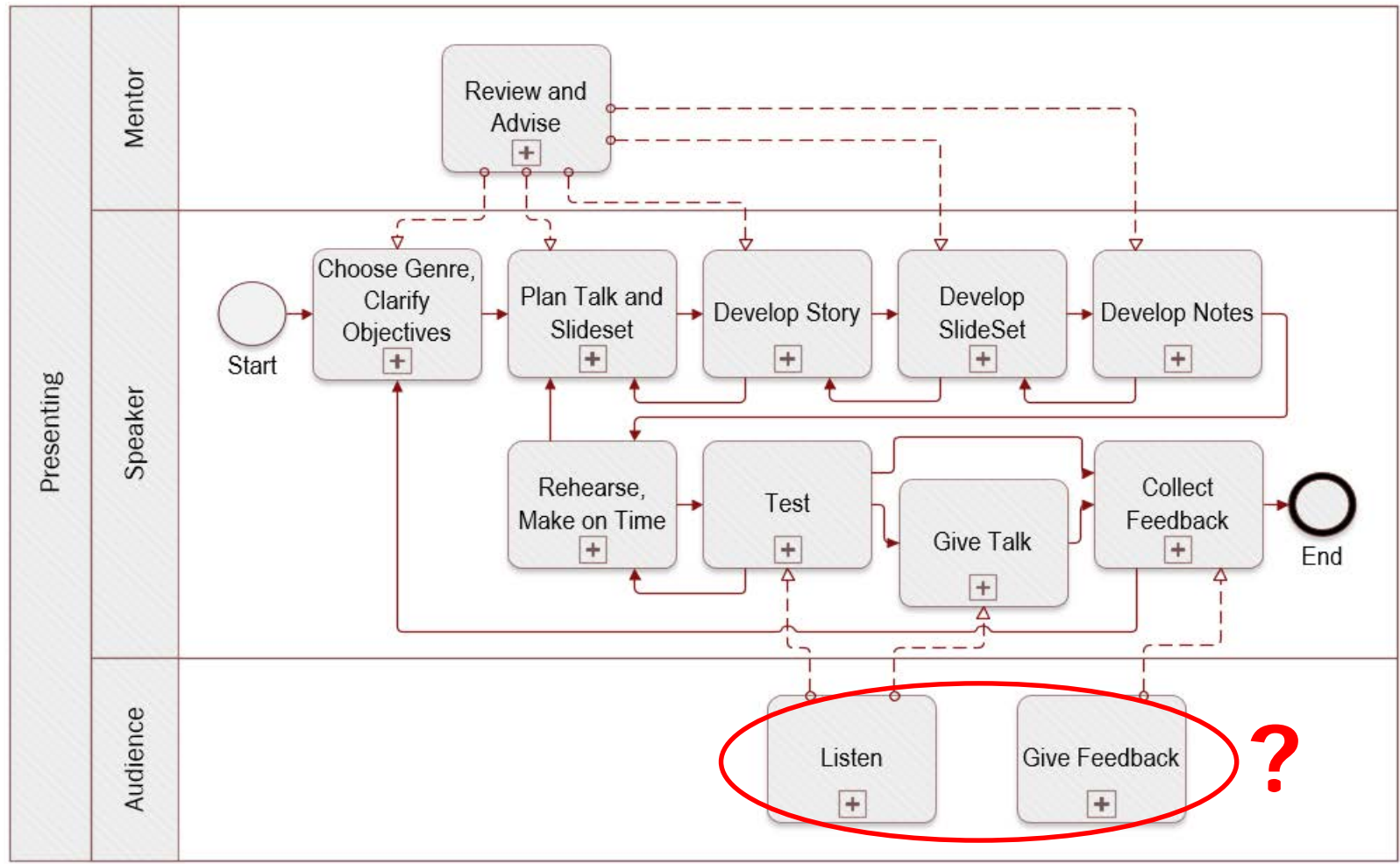
For more information about this page, click on **Help**.

Shortcuts to papers: [1](#), [2](#), [5](#), [10](#), [26](#), [27](#), [28](#), [29](#), [30](#), [31](#), [32](#), [33](#), [34](#), [35](#), [36](#), [37](#), [38](#), [39](#), [40](#), [41](#), [42](#), [43](#), [44](#), [45](#), [46](#), [47](#), [48](#), [49](#), [50](#), [51](#), [52](#), [53](#), [54](#), [55](#), [56](#), [57](#), [58](#), [59](#), [60](#), [61](#), [62](#), [63](#), [64](#), [65](#), [66](#), [67](#), [68](#), [69](#), [70](#), [71](#), [72](#), [73](#), [74](#), [75](#), [76](#), [77](#), [78](#), [79](#), [80](#), [81](#), [82](#), [83](#), [84](#), [85](#), [86](#), [87](#), [88](#), [89](#), [90](#), [91](#), [92](#), [93](#), [94](#), [95](#), [96](#), [97](#), [98](#), [99](#), [100](#), [101](#), [102](#), [103](#), [104](#), [105](#), [106](#), [107](#), [108](#), [109](#), [110](#), [111](#), [112](#), [113](#), [114](#), [115](#), [116](#), [117](#), [118](#), [119](#), [120](#), [121](#), [122](#), [123](#), [124](#), [125](#), [126](#), [127](#), 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# Paper: Risks and Remedies

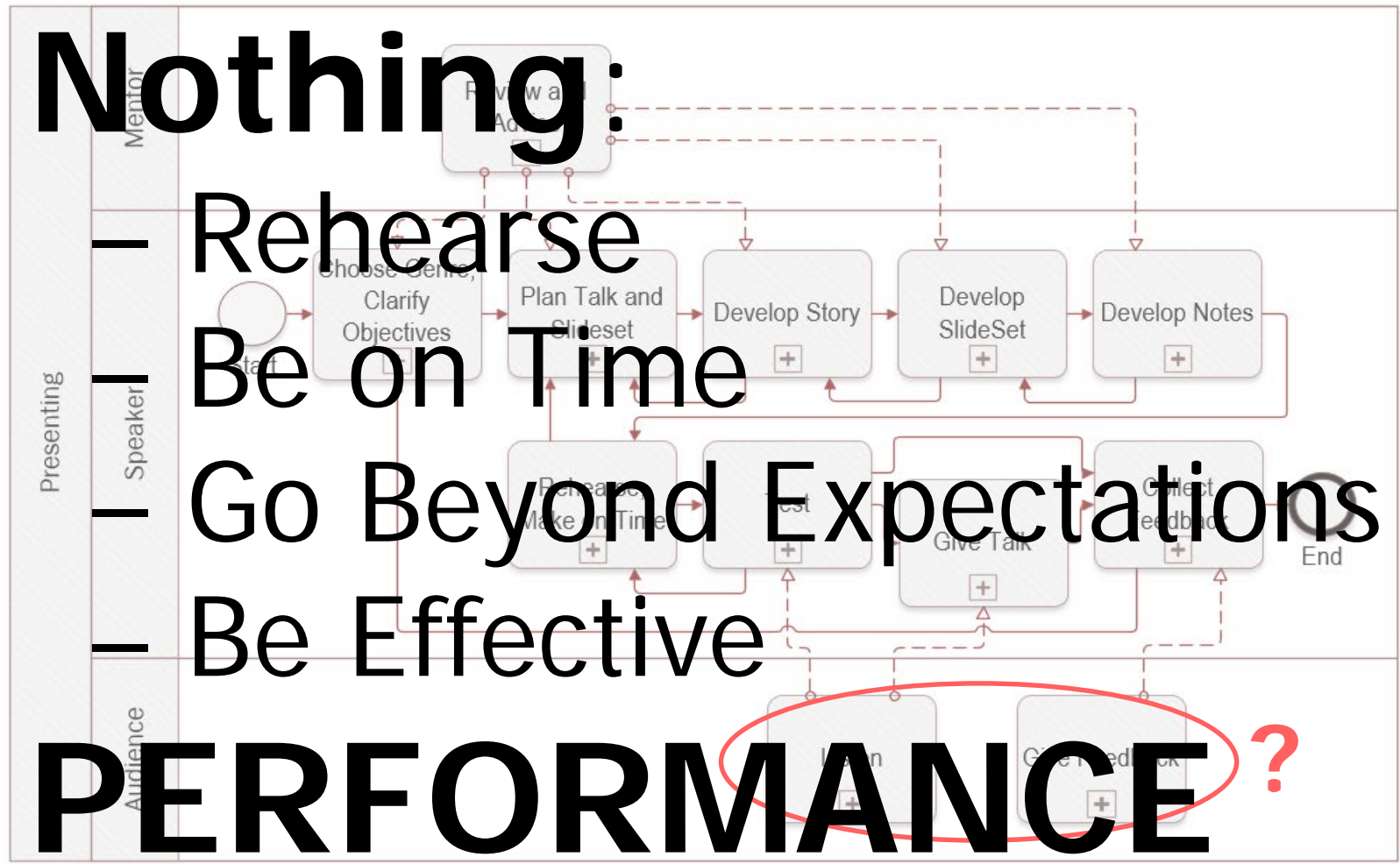
- Review: **reject** – I think, reviewers were **biased**
  - Could happen, but most definitely it is **your biased opinion**
  - Check the comments, treat constructively
  - PC members are experienced and briefed how to behave
- Review: **reject** – I think, reviewers were **not qualified**
  - Could happen – your submission is not relevant
  - Check the **CfP**
  - **Resubmit** to a relevant venue
- Review: **reject** – their **arguments** do not correspond to the **scores**
  - Could happen – program chairs check this correspondence
  - Re-check the review, perhaps they were right ...
- Review: **reject** – may I please-please improve the paper and resubmit?
  - **No way** – not fair
  - **Improve and resubmit** to a different venue

# Talking: Anything Beyond Control?





# Talking: Anything Beyond Control?



# Final Questions and Answers

