Example of a MEAL Plan Paragraph Analysis

Consider the following paragraph, from “Publication, publication,” by Gary King (2006).

The broader scientific community both collectively and in many other individual fields is also moving strongly in the direction of participating in or requiring some form of data sharing. Recipients of grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health now are required to make data available to other scholars upon publication or within a year of the termination of their grant. Replicating, and thus collectively and publicly validating, the integrity of our published work is often still more difficult than it should be, and some still oppose the whole idea, but our discipline has made substantial progress.

The Main idea, Evidence, Argument, and Link (MEAL) in this paragraph can be identified like this:

The broader scientific community both collectively and in many other individual fields is also moving strongly in the direction of participating in or requiring some form of data sharing. Recipients of grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health now are required to make data available to other scholars upon publication or within a year of the termination of their grant. Replicating, and thus collectively and publicly validating, the integrity of our published work is often still more difficult than it should be, and some still oppose the whole idea, but our discipline has made substantial progress.

Note that King’s next paragraph discusses the progression of the “replication debate.”

Example from: