

Size and Diversity

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YSS4274

Smaller states are more cohesive.

- Cohesion →
 - ▶ Trust
 - ▶ Social Capital
 - ▶ Democracy
 - ▶ Development

Are smaller states more cohesive? Why? Why not?

Does more cohesion mean less diversity? Why? Why not?

Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

- Size and Diversity
- How to write an Op-Ed

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- Size and Diversity (**Gerring and Veenendaal; Ong**)
- How to write an Op-Ed (**Prof. Monroe**)

Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 Size and Diversity
- 3 Skills Building: How to write an Op-ed
 - Writing
 - Op-Ed
- 4 Next Seminar: To Dos

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Op-Ed 1 (Feb 23)

- Must discuss small state(s) (however defined) in relation to: development, decentralization, democracy or diversity
- Word count: 800
- Target audience: educated non-academic reader (Straits Times; New York Times)
- Op-Ed 1 + Op-Ed 2 = 25% of final grade
- Prof Monroe will not look at drafts, but can come to office hours to discuss the op-ed

Office Hours!

- Students must attend at least one office hours session before mid-semester break (Feb 23)
- Sign up on Calendly

Happy Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion week!

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THE STRAITS TIMES

Two-party system like those in UK, US unlikely in Singapore, says Ong Ye Kung



Source: The Straits Times

“In large polities, different political parties naturally emerge to cater to population segments with vastly different views, such as people living in Scotland versus people living in London, he (Ong) said.”

Why?

What drives small state cohesion?

Definition: Cohesion

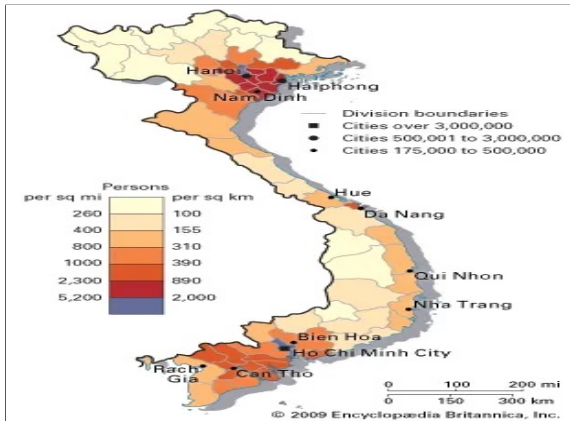
“[T]ogetherness - or “sticking-togetherness” of a community, the sense in which members identify and behave as members of a coherent, unitary group (Gerring and Veenendaal, pg.65).”

Warm Up

Take three minutes to list reasons why small polities may be more cohesive than larger ones. Make sure you define "size."

Small State Drivers of Cohesiveness

- Personalism > Ideology
- Ethnolinguistic / Cultural Homogeneity
- Economic Homogeneity

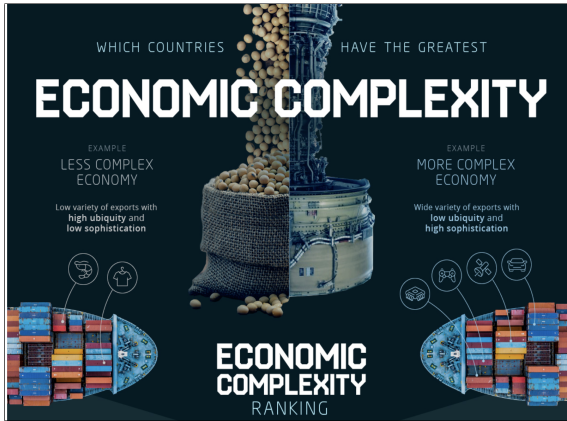


Source: Britannica Kids

Economic Diversity

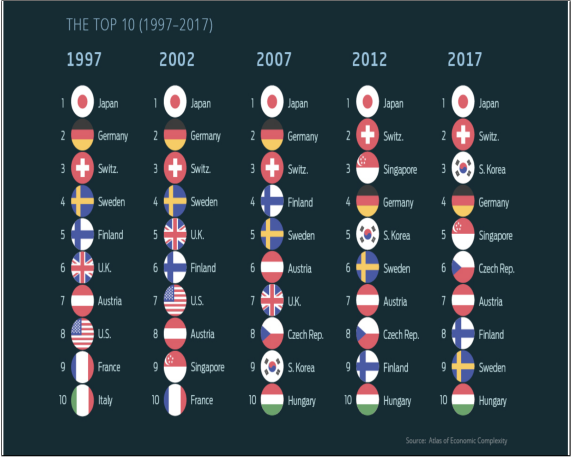
“A large society provides a larger base of workers, with a larger range of skills, a larger pool of capital to draw upon, and a larger group of consumers to sell products (Gerring and Veenendaal, pg. 68).”

But are smaller states less economically diverse?



Source: Visual Capital

Economic Complexity Ranking



Source: Visual Capital

Economic Diversity

Why might a small state want to increase its economic diversity? How can it do so?

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Do you agree?

Stepping back

Is diversity bad for cohesiveness? Why? Why not?

Diversity: Con

- Different (competing) preferences
- Collective action problems (communication; sanctioning)

Diversity: Pro

- New ideas, perspectives, complementarities
- False choice

Hooray for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion!

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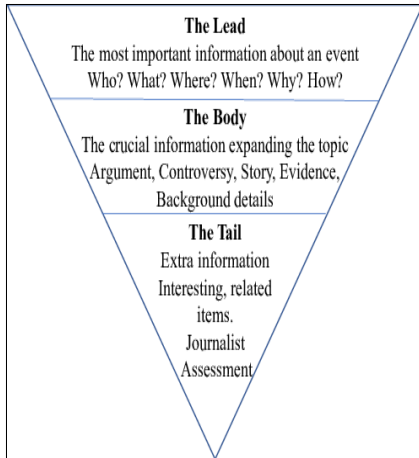
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Tips for Better Writing

Tip 1: Know Your Audience

Tip 2: Know the Real Estate of Writing

Inverted Pyramid (Journalism)



Source: St. Paul

Hourglass (Academia / Capstone)



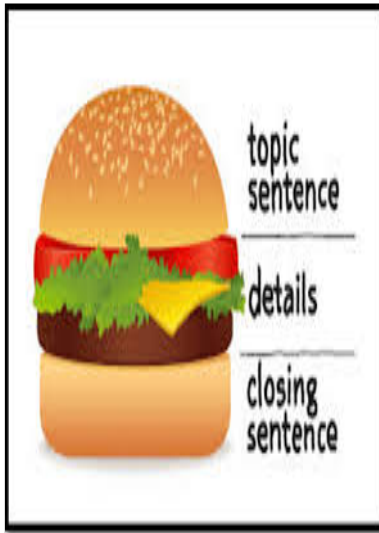
Source: Vector Stock

Where is the most valuable real estate in an academic article?

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Conclusion

Where is the most valuable real estate in a paragraph?

- Topic Sentence
- Closing Sentence



Source: gptutorsg

Your reader (and professor)
will thank you for clear topic
sentences!

Where is the most valuable real estate in a sentence?

The start and end of a sentence are its most valuable real estate.

The start and end of a sentence are its most valuable real estate.

The start and end of a sentence are its **most valuable real estate.**

Tip 3: Keep it Simple

- Sentences should have subjects and verbs
- No passive voice

Active and passive voice



What subject does

The focus is on the action.

Active : Ram killed Ravan

Passive : Ravan was killed by Ram.

Source: CopyPress

When possible, try to put a sentence's subject and verb at the **start** of a sentence.

Shorter is almost always better.

- Shorter is almost always better
 - ▶ Manuscript
 - ▶ Paragraphs (< five sentences)
 - ▶ Sentences (long sentences are tiring to read!)

If there's a word you can cut,
cut it! Your reader (and
professor) will thank you for it.

When they mean the same,
choose “simple” over “fancy”
words.

Example

Use > Utilize

Last tip

Tip 4: Just Write!



Source: Austin Kleon

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Big Picture

Op-ed writing \neq Academic writing

Espresso (Op-Ed) vs. Drip Coffee (Academic Writing)



Source: Hearty Brew

Big Picture

- Op-ed writing \neq Academic writing
 - ▶ Voice and personality
 - ▶ Less formal (more accessible)
 - ▶ To the point

Big Picture (Part II)

- Op-ed intro \approx Academic intro
 - ▶ Hook (newspaper / online readers are distracted)
 - ▶ Lays out question or problem or issue
 - ▶ Briefly presents argument or solution or so what
 - ▶ No need for overview of rest of op-ed

Big Picture (Part III)

- Op-ed conclusion \approx Academic conclusion
 - ▶ Answers or solves topic presented in the intro
 - ▶ Should remind reader why this topic is important
 - ▶ Last sentence is op-ed's most memorable
 - ▶ Call to action (optional)

Espresso (Op-Ed) vs. Drip Coffee (Academic Writing)



Source: Hearty Brew

Op-Ed Writing Tips

- Re-read before submission.
 - ▶ Is there an argument?
 - ▶ Does the text consistently support the argument?
 - ▶ Check for typos.
 - ▶ Use active voice.
 - ▶ If there are words you can cut, cut.
- Read out loud before submission.
- Look over Op-Ed rubric before submission.
- See **Resources** section of HKS document.

Op-Ed (Due Feb. 23)

- See examples from last year (Canvas -> Files -> Rubrics) and on the small states forum website.
- Check out Prof. Monroe's recent "Op-Eds" / Blog Posts.
 - ▶ [Click Here!](#)
 - ▶ [And here!](#)
 - ▶ [Here too!](#)

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- Size and Diversity (**Gerring and Veenendaal; Ong**)
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Next Seminar (Feb 19th)

- Size and Diversity (Part 2)
 - ▶ What is diversity? And how to measure it? And how to govern it?

Have a great weekend!