Journal paper workbook
context + evidence + insight => narrative

1. INSIGHT: Why are you writing this paper?

What's the driving (major / primary) sexy insight?

Why is it a sexy insight?

Now break it down into its constituents:

insight	based on what evidence	with what limitations	with what implications

What makes this important, relevant, timely?

Who cares? (i.e. who is your audience)?

How are your insights manifest?:

contributions to theory	contributions to method	practical contributions (e.g., tools)

Where do your insights lead?

Who benefits?

2. CONTEXT: How does your work fit into the discourse?

Antecedents

Key ideas on which the insight or research builds	Who provided them	How this is extends, refines or refutes them

Competitors

Key alternative insights or approaches	Who provided them	How this is different

3. EVIDENCE: How can you substantiate your insights?

Try to articulate clearly exactly what you did, why you did it, what you found, what it means, where it leads:

Questions (what I wanted to know was...)	Methods (in order to find out, I did this...)	Evidence (my methods provided this evidence...)	Findings (from which I concluded...

Now expand the methodology column:

method	exactly what I did	why it was the right thing to do	alternative methods (that I might have used but didn't)	why the alternatives were less appropriate or inadequate (why I didn't use them)

What assumptions did you make?

What assumptions are implied in your methods?

Now expand the findings column:

finding	how the finding is validated	limitations to the finding	generaliseability	what depends on this finding? (Where does it fit in your chain of inference?)

Now consider alternative accounts:

finding	alternative accounts	why the alternatives are wrong or less likely

now explore the future:

finding	implications / consequences	limitations	further work

4. NARRATIVE

Complete the template:

A major issue / problem in CS is...	
Other people suggested this about it...	
But there are these limitations to their thinking...	
So I did this...	
And found this...	
And you should be excited about it because...	

Now write your outline: