

## **What's the story?**

Imagine you're sitting in a café with your reader, ready to tell them the story of **this section of your thesis**. But they're distracted by a message on their phone:

*"Sorry - I only have a minute! OK, yes? What's the story?"*

They're impatient! What will you tell them?

Ask yourself:

- What are the essential points of the story?
- What is less important (and can be left out)?

Without thinking too much in advance, **tell the story of this section and record it on your phone**. Remember, you only have a minute or so - aim for about 9 key statements. Try this several times until it sounds about right, each time imagining your reader asking impatiently *"So what? Why are you telling me this?"*

Draw a mind map linking each important idea or transcribe the statements, print out or write them on post-its.

Now play with the order. Is anything missing? Will the reader understand the sequence of ideas? Do they flow naturally?

**These ideas are the backbone of your argument and they should stand out loud and clear in your text.**