A SHORT SUMMARY ON WRITING A GOOD DISCUSSION SECTION

First paragraph – Remind the reader of the **purpose** of the study and why it was **needed**.

Then present a brief list/summary of the issues you will address in more detail in the rest of the discussion. "These issues mainly are (1) the need for …. and (2) our ability to…."

The rest of the discussion should then elaborate on the main objectives. Below are some example questions/issues to unpack here:

1. What conceptual and technical challenges did you face in developing meaningful results and how did we overcome them?
2. Do the results make sense? Was it useful to include additional analyses/metrics/etc? Why or why not?
3. How do your results compare with results of other studies? Are they better, worse, different, or ???
4. What implications emerge given these new findings? Should we move away from how the literature has been dealing with something? Does this confirm or contrast with existing state of the science?
5. (sometimes) What implication does climatic non-stationarity have for the results?
6. Discuss measurement/model error in the context of error that has been observed by other researchers?
7. What are the implications of these potential errors for your results?
8. Why did error/findings vary between settings/models/sites?
9. Many more!!! Spend some time reviewing discussion sections of good papers.

Conclude the discussion with one paragraph that summarizes the overall significance of your research and any implications it raises, any knowledge gaps that remain and suggestions of what research needs to be done to fill those gaps.