

Writing an abstract for conference submission

One of the most important parts of a scientific research article is the abstract. In the case of a conference paper, the abstract will determine whether it is accepted or not for presentation to colleagues. An abstract is a good predictor of the quality of the paper or talk. A poorly written abstract says the author is inexperienced or doesn't care about quality.

Your abstract is like a business card or 'elevator pitch'. You want to be remembered by the people to whom you offer it.

Purpose of an abstract

An abstract should reflect all the parts of your research paper but in shortened form. In other words, a person reading only your abstract should be able to quickly understand why you conducted the research, how you did it, what you found and why your work is important.

Although inclusion of data is acceptable, report only those numbers that represent the most important information. Some authors include citations or URLs in their abstracts but these will take up space within the template.

Write your abstract

- **Title:** Craft a clear, concise, and informative title that reflects the content of your research and catches the audience's attention.
- **Objectives/Background:** *Why was the work done?* Briefly introduce the research problem or question your work addresses. Provide context and highlight the significance of your study.
- **Methods:** *What was done?* Describe the research methodology you used in your research eg. field study, laboratory experiment. Be specific but concise, emphasizing the most critical aspects of your approach.
- **Results:** *What was found?* Summarize the key findings of your study. Even if your results are preliminary, they should provide enough information to demonstrate the value of your research.
- **Conclusion/Implications:** *What does this mean?* Highlight the broader impact of your findings. What is new or innovative about the findings? How do your findings affect the field of study? Discuss how your work contributes to the field.

Review and edit your abstract before submission

- **Proofread:** Check for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Make sure your abstract is clear, concise, and free of jargon.
- **Get Feedback:** Share your abstract with colleagues or mentors to get feedback. They can provide valuable insights and help improve your submission.
- **Sign-off:** Before submitting, please make sure your work has been signed off by relevant colleagues if applicable.