

Tips for writing a great scientific abstract for 7th TERMIS World Congress

Consider before you write.....

- What knowledge does your audience/reviewer have? Typically, the TERMIS audience is quite broad so you should **target your abstract so that another graduate student in your department who is not in your research group could understand the content**. This may mean explaining briefly the meaning of any technical terms that are very specific to your research group.
- [Read the abstract instructions](#)
- TERMIS 2024 World Congress Guidelines:
 - word limit is 500 words (excluding title and authors)
 - Maximum of one (1) figure (optional)

Steps for creating your abstract.....

Step 1: Answer these three questions in 3 sentences: What is the problem? Why is the problem important (who cares)? What is your approach to solving the problem?

Step 2: Select a title that tries to summarize the key impact/importance of your work – perhaps this can be formed from your 3 sentences in step 1. Remember this is the information people will use to decide whether to come to your talk or poster presentation if accepted. Remember your title can't be too long so think about what is your one key point only and how can this be written as succinctly as possible.

Step 3: Bullet point what you could include in each section (background, methods, results, conclusion)

TIP: What to Include?

- *Background (typically ~20-25% of text)*
 - a brief description of the overall problem your research is trying to solve
 - any information/definitions the reader needs to understand the importance and rationale for your research
 - an explicit statement of the gap in the field that your research approach addresses
- *Methods (typically ~20-25% of text)*
 - a high-level overview of the experimental methods you used (not detailed protocol information), the type of information these methods and how this information helped you tackle your problem.
- *Results (typically ~30-35% of text)*
 - a brief overview of your results and/or general trends observed and how these link to the problem you set out to solve. Try to include both qualitative descriptions and quantitative results when appropriate.
 - Highlight the most important and highest impact results in more detail.
- *Conclusions (typically ~15-20% of text)*
 - A description of why your results are significant and how they link to the overall research topic/question/goal described in the introduction

TIP: Identify most important points and place into main bullet and then use sub-bullets for additional/less critical information. This will allow you to easily remove non-critical information if your abstract ends up being too long.

Step 4: Turn each bullet point into a complete sentence.

Step 5: Remove bullets to turn organized bullet points into complete text. Check for any additional linker words or sentences required. If abstract is too long then remove sub-bullets containing less important information.

Additional resources

<https://www.wiley.com/network/researchers/preparing-your-article/how-to-write-a-scientific-abstract> (a great overview - ~ 5 min read)

<http://crosstalk.cell.com/blog/how-to-hook-an-audience-with-a-great-abstract> (really useful tips- ~10 min read)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259808073_Writing_an_Abstract_for_a_Scientific_Conference (more detailed advice - ~10-15 min read)