

Writing a Conference Abstract



M I R c o r e

Marianne Cowherd
cowherd@alumni.stanford.edu

Why do we write abstracts?

- We want to communicate the results of our research
- Abstracts are concise
- Reviewing the process helps us remember how to do good research
- Others can give us feedback on our research

THE BIG PICTURE

- Tells a complete story in one page
- Each section serves a specific and unique purpose

Green is the prettiest color

Marianne Cowherd¹ and Inhan Lee²

¹20th grade, University of California, Berkeley, CA

²miRcore, Ann Arbor, MI

Introduction

There are many colors. Some of them are prettier than others. We do not know which one is the prettiest, although previous work has shown that individual people do have preferences [1].

Methods

I asked seven people that I met on the street to answer a survey about colors. One of the questions was "what is the prettiest color?"

Results

Five of the seven people answered "green."

Discussion

It makes sense that green is the prettiest color because plants are green [2].

Keywords: colors, green, painting

References:

1. Hemphill, M. *The Journal of genetic psychology*, **1996**, 157(3), 275-280.
2. Horton, P. et al. *Annual Review of Plant Biology*. **1996**, 47(1), 655-684.

your name (*underline the author submitting the abstract*)

your grade and school name


People I just met prefer green over other colors


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A precise title that says the main point of your paper

 “*Proteins in the brain*” is too vague

 “*Eating cheesy snacks should be mandatory*” likely is not supported by this work and is too opinionated

 “*How many Cheez-its are in one box?*” sets up a specific, answerable question

 “*Quantification of cheesy crackers in a standard box*” informs the audience of exactly what they will learn

Introduction

- Briefly describe the context of your research
 - why does the disease matter to people and society?
 - what is missing in our treatment or cure of the disease?
 - what scientific aspect of the disease do you address
- Why does your research address a question that the world needs answered?

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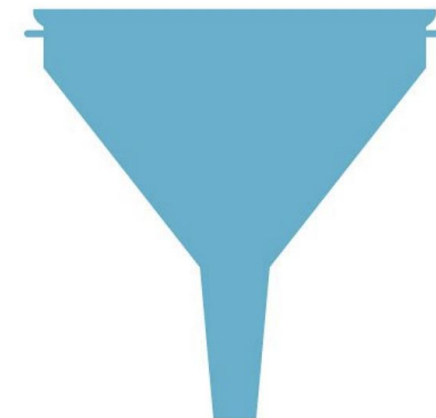
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- Start broad; end specific

audience background



engagement



MIRCORE

Methods

- Tell what you did to address the question you set up in the introduction
- Say where your data may be found
- Describe what type of data you used
- Name statistical methods
- Name software, websites, and databases

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- Use an active voice

 *The Cheez-its were eaten by me.*

 *I ate the Cheez-its.*

Results

- Summarize the results of the methods you describe
- State relevant numbers (p-values, magnitude changes), names of genes, and names of pathways
- Everything should be relevant to something in the introduction and/or methods sections
- Be technical; don't interpret beyond the direct results of your methods

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Discussion

- Describe why your results are interesting, relevant and important
 - does your method work?
 - what do the pathways you identified mean to other people?
 - how is this related to other work?
- Why does this matter to science and society? This relates back to your introduction.

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It makes sense that they like green because plants are green [2].

Keywords

- Three words or phrases that summarize your subject and method
- Common search terms in a database

References

- **OPTIONAL**
- Max 2 published papers whose findings you explicitly reference with an in-line citation in the abstract

 *Cheez-its cause 5,000 smiles per year [1].*
1. Cowherd, M. *J Snacking*. 2020. 195, 1-3.

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Formatting

- One page
- 300-500 words total
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- Single-spaced

Check

<https://www.mircore.org/abstract-format/> for more details

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Arial, 14-pt font

Bold

Centered

Only first word and proper nouns capitalized

Line breaks

Arial, 11-pt font

Centered

Names in alphabetical order by last name

Presenting author's name is underlined

Italic grade, school, and school location

If multiple affiliations, use superscript numbers

Arial, 11-pt font

Bold section titles on the left side

Justified paragraphs with no indentation

Arial, 11-pt font

Abbreviated citations

Last name, First initial. et al. *Journal*, **year**, *edition*, pages.

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General Tips

- Write sections in this order:
 1. Methods
 2. Results
 3. Discussion
 4. Introduction
- Read through the entire abstract **out loud** to yourself to edit
- Ask your peers for help and editing
- Speak to what you know
- An [Abstract Template](#) is available in the Google drive
- Have fun!

don't edit in the template!
make your own copy :)