

Chem 360 Lecture 8a

Abstract and Title

Administrative reminders

- Today:
 - (1) Quiz #4
 - (2) Discuss Title and Abstract
 - (3) Pick up graded work - go to writing center?
- On Wednesday:
 - (1) Revised Discussion Section due
 - (2) First draft of Intro. Section due/peer review
- On Friday: University-wide furlough

If your Results Section grade is...

- Less than 7: you are *encouraged* to set up and visit: Amy Henry or Ximena in the MORE Program writing assistance.
- Less than 5: you are **expected** to set up and visit: Amy Henry or Ximena in the MORE Program writing center.

Writing Assistance-MORE program ...(PS 510)

- Ximena Hernandez' hours (next 2 weeks):
Mon 3-6 ; Thurs 2-6 ; Fri 12-6
- Amy Henry's hours:
- Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
- Emails: amy (ahenry138@gmail.com) or Ximena (ximena@usc.edu).
- Room : PS 512

Chapter 7: Abstract and Title

- First, discuss abstract, then title
- What is an abstract?
 - a) self-contained, short and powerful statement
 - b) reflects the article in its entirety: purpose of research/methods used/results/principal findings
 - c) is an original document, not excerpted passage
 - d) informative not descriptive

2 Types: Informative vs Descriptive

- Informative -typical in sci. articles (≈200wds)
 - Says what was studied and the results
 - E.g. "A novel, rapid, portable, and inexpensive analytical technique was developed to determine phosphite concentration in waste water with more accuracy than conventional methods."
- Descriptive – not typical
 - Describes the article without giving findings
 - E.g. This study reports on a new analytical technique.

Abstract: Contents and organization

- “almost” IMRD
- purpose/methods/results/principal finding
- Move Structure: (?) = optional
 - Move 1: identify research area and importance(?)
 - Move 2: identify the method used
 - Move 3: Report principal findings /concluding remark(?)

Title structure: XYZ pattern

- In title: Y = what was studied (required)
- X = a nominalization or description (refers to Y) (optional)
- Z = impact of Y or method used (refers to Y) optional
- Title: “ X - - Y - - Z “
e.g. “The development of a new method to measure phosphites.”

Move 1

- 1.1 ID the research area/it importance (?)
- 1.2 Mention gap addressed by work (?)
- 1.3 state purpose and/or accomplishments of work

Note above what is optional and what is required.

Move 2 and 3

Move 2: identify methods used

Move 3: report principal findings

Abstract: Writing conventions

- Abbrev’ns and acronyms – see ACS style guide
- No citations (usually)
- Error terms and units
- Keywords – used for categorizing and searches
- No vendor info
- Same rules on tenses as before
- both passive and active voice used

Abstract: how long?

- Meet the word count limitation of the journal: consult: information for authors (150-250 w)
- Examples:
- **Science Magazine:** Brevia are brief contributions (600 to 800 words including references, notes and captions) accompanied by one illustration or table that must be contained on one printed page. Authors should also submit an abstract of 100 words or less that will appear online only.

Examples of abstract length:

- **JACS: Abstracts.**
- All manuscripts (Communications and Articles) must contain an abstract, which should summarize the reason for the work, the most significant results, and the conclusions. The abstract for an article should not exceed about **250 words**. Abstracts for Communications will not appear in the printed edition but will be available in the HTML version in the Web edition. Pasting the abstract in the text box on the Web submission page does not replace the need for including an abstract in the manuscript document.

Examples of abstract length:

- **PNAS: Abstracts and Title.**
- **Abstract.** Provide an abstract of no more than 250 words on page 2 of the manuscript. Abstracts should explain to the general reader the major contributions of the article. References in the abstract must be cited in full within the abstract itself and cited in the text.
- **Title:** Titles should be no more than three typeset lines (generally 135 characters including spaces) and should be comprehensible for a broad scientific audience.

Title: as concise as possible.

- Avoid empty words like “the, a, an”
 - Avoid redundant phrases like “study of”...
- E.g.: The study of how one’s diet can affect the incidence of diseases of the brain. (16w,65c)
 More concise: Effect of diet on the incidence of brain diseases.(9w,39c)

Use of keywords

- Some publications request "keywords". These have two purposes.
- (1) to facilitate keyword index searches, now reduced in importance because on-line abstract text searching is commonly used.
- (2) to assign papers to review committees or editors, which can be extremely important to your fate.