
Submitting an Abstract?

Or: how to win friends and be successful



Paul Kane
Department of Radiation
Therapy, UOW



What this presentation will be about:

- The purpose of an abstract
- The elements of an abstract
- Some tests to apply to your abstract
- Questions

ASKING QUESTIONS



What is the purpose of an abstract?





Some assumptions

- You want to submit an abstract
- They want to see your abstract
- You have something you wish to share via a poster or oral presentation

OR

- You have written a manuscript and are getting it ready for submission
- REMEMBER: We all have something in our practice that is worth sharing



Elements of an abstract

- Title
- Why did you do this?
- How?
- What you found?
- So what?
- Usually in 250 words or less



Title

- To simulate or not to simulate, that is NOT the question!

V

- Simulation-based education: A narrative review of the use of VERT in radiation therapy education



Why did you do this?

Useful

- This is a problem common to many departments
- Patients often have an issue with this
- This was a very unusual case worth sharing
- We have this new technology available and we weren't sure if it was better
- We wanted to do this thing but had to build a case for it
- New policy determined we had to change things

Not useful

- Nobody does this any more but we like it
- We are catching up with everyone else and want to tell you all what you already know
- We had to do something!
- We had some money that we had to spend



How did you do it?

- We ran a retrospective analysis of how long it took us to complete process A. We did this by data mining back to 20XX for Y patients on alternate Fridays. We subtracted the number of times we did B (the modified version of A) because that isn't really the same thing. By the way we also made sure we included those patients on a Friday afternoon because they can be really difficult. Anyway we got a p value so that must mean something right?

✓

- We performed an audit relating to our departmental performance in performing process A. Analysis accounted for the type of data we collected and we applied the appropriate tests.



What you found

- Our results came from 5000 datapoints that were recorded, it was all repeated so we could be sure it was right. We are now going to walk you through each and every result, twice, so you can be sure it was right.

V

- This is a complex question, we have a range of results, here are the interesting ones that probably mean most for your practice



So what?

- Lets repeat what we just told you in the results section. We did it twice remember so it must be true. We read a tonne of articles, lets tell you about them all. Also here is this thing we never mentioned before but its really important. More research is needed, like, all the time.

V

- Up to now, “THIS” has been generally understood to be the case. Based on our work and results, we are now inclined to think “THAT” is a really strong possibility. We want to look into this further by expanding on what we did.



Some checks and
tests you can use



Have you shown respect?

- Theme
- Word limit
- Grammar and spelling
- Structure
- Is everything included
- Deadline



Be clear, be logical

“Do not write so that you are understood,
write so that you are not misunderstood”

Some dude on the internet

Is your story coherent?



<https://www.army.mil/e2/-images/2010/10/15/88797/>

Would your mother love it?



https://instagram.com/p/BkRrm87F8Cb/?utm_source=ig_embed

OR



https://nationalpostcom.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/cinderella-disneyscreencaps_com-8502.jpg



Other tips

- Forget about word count at the start
- Start early
- No need to cite
- Be prepared for multiple versions
- Seek feedback

Questions?



<http://blog.searchenglish.com/8-importance-of-asking-questions/>