

Sections of an Abstract (~300 word limit)

When writing an abstract for a conference, be sure to understand the rules of the abstract submission. An important rule is to check the length allowed – many conferences describe the length in ‘number of words’.

When word length is limited, you are often faced with balancing providing detailed information with efficient use of words. Below are some suggestions to help start the abstract writing process. The headers may or may not be included in the abstract – check the rules for submission.

Introduction

- In one or two sentences, give the reader a sense of why this study was done.
 - You may not have enough word space.
 - Do not include sentences that require a citation.
- Alternatively, start the abstract with the purpose statement.

Purpose statement

- Use 1-sentence to state the purpose statement.

Methods

Subjects

- Give basic demographic description of subjects (number, age, mass, height).
 - Include standard deviations and units.
- Give any specific information necessary to understand the population tested. If there is nothing specific, then skip this description.

Instrumentation

- Embedded instrumentation description within sentences as needed.
 - ‘... EMG data were collected (Noraxon, Telemyo 2400T) ...’

Procedures

- Describe the procedures that each subject followed during data collection. Include everything from the warm-up to cool-down (if appropriate).
- Within the procedures, indicate when data were collected.

Data Reduction

- Explain the procedures that you used to process the data to yield the dependent variable(s). For example, you recorded peak GRF by ...

Statistical Analysis

- Explain any statistical procedures (even calculating means and standard deviations).
- Identify dependent and independent variables.

Results

- Explain the results of your study in an objective manner. Do not interject your opinions regarding the results – just the outcome of the statistical report.
- Use sentence structure like ‘[Dependent variable] [was/was not] influenced by [independent variable] (stats).’
 - Check the rules for how much statistical detail should be reported.
 - Try to always include some description of dependent variables (e.g., include some means and standard deviations for each condition).

Discussion/Conclusion

- In 1 or 2 sentences, state the most important take-home message.
- Do not repeat the results.
- Concluding statement should be based upon the data presented.