

ANATOMY OF AN ABSTRACT

NOTE: This document was prepared for the purposes of the workshop. Please consult the Author Submission Guidelines before submitting your abstract or paper.

Heading	Description	Criteria
Purpose, Purpose/Objective OR Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -States the research objectives using action words (e.g. validate, implement, measure, determine, quantify, compare) -Introduces the independent and dependent variables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If Introduction, then also describe how the research is related to a major problem/debate in the field and describe how the research findings might point the way for a potential solution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -clearly stated research objective(s) with action words -if applicable, independent and dependent variables are identifiable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -gives larger context to research (e.g., major problem/debate/concern/gap of knowledge in the field) -links motivation of the research as a way to address/solve/fill a gap in knowledge
Methods; Materials/Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Describes the research design, including steps taken to achieve the research objectives -Describes how the data are collected -Describes how independent and dependent variables are measured -Tends to use passive voice -Can include equations if appropriate and allowed according to conference guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -includes relevant steps, materials, assessment measures, simulation that a reader can judge the validity of the scientific design -uses appropriate tense -includes appropriate images, equations or figures in conformance with conference guidelines
Results OR Results/Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Describes the most important findings related to the research objectives -Can include tables, images, figures and graphs as appropriate -Avoids interpretation though has 'evaluative' language (e.g., better quality, lower variability, more accurate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can also include interpretation of results -Can also include and explain any caveats, constraints or discrepancies in the results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -states most important findings related to research objectives -includes tables, images, figures and graphs in conformance with conference guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -interprets results -explains any caveats, constraints or discrepancies in the results

<p>Conclusions</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Discussion/Conclusions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -States the most important outcome of the research and places the research in a larger context -Does not repeat information from the Introduction but can confirm whether the action word in the Introduction (e.g., to validate) was achieved and what impact it has on the larger problem/debate/gap in knowledge -Includes perspectives on new research, especially if it can shed light on unexpected findings from your research -Can also include interpretation of results -Can also include and explain any caveats, constraints or discrepancies in the findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -clearly shows what the findings mean to the reader (i.e., make it a 'cite-able' sentence) -focuses on take-home message/impact of the research -includes ideas for future research -interprets results -explains any caveats, constraints or discrepancies in the results
<p>Captions (or Legends) for Tables and Figures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Should stand alone so that someone who has not read the text can understand -Renders the meaning of the figure or table (e.g., is there a trend worth noting in the table, what features of the image are worth noting) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the meaning of the table or figure to the research objective is very clear -supports the conclusions, illustrates the concepts or shows the relationships between variables -needs to conform to conference guidelines (e.g., labeling of axes, size of image, etc.)