

Title and Abstract

A title labels a research paper.

*An abstract is a stand alone miniversion of a
research paper.*

What is the Purpose of a Title?

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- Indicate the **subject** of your research.
- **Distinguish** your research from others of its kind.
- **Show continuity** with preceding papers.
- Provide **key words** for indexing.

Rules of Thumb for Titles

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- Use a minimum of technical terminology.
- Use fewer than 80 characters.
- Avoid active verbs, numerical values, abbreviations, and punctuation.

Some Bad Titles

- *Studies on Brucella*
- *Action of Antibiotics on Bacteria*
- *On the addition to the method of microscopic research by a new way of producing color-contrast between an object and its background or between definite parts of the object itself*
- *Isolation of Antigens from Monkeys Using Complement-Fixation Techniques*
- *Using a Fiberoptic Bronchoscope, Dogs Were Immunized With Sheep and Red Blood Cells*

Some Good Titles

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Enhanced Recovery of Bitumen by Steam with Chemical Additives

Adaptive Nulling in the Hyperthermia Treatment of Cancer

What's a Running Title?

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- Shorter version of the title printed at the top of each page to save space.
- Also called a “running head.”
- Maximum character count given in instruction to authors.
- Best to write it yourself.

What is the Purpose of an Abstract?

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- A **stand alone**, miniversion of the paper (250 words or less).
- **Summarizes** the main sections of the paper.
- States the **purpose, findings, and impact** of the work.

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Economy of Words

- Provide an abstracted version of your paper in as **few words as possible**.
- **Choose each word carefully**. Make them clear and significant.
- Provide only the **key points**.
- *It's why we write them last!*

What are Some Pitfalls of Titles?

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copyright reasons.

- **Too general or too specific.**
- **Too long or too short.**
- **Incomprehensible** (sometimes from the use of jargon).
- **Inaccurate** (often a syntax problem).
- Contains **abbreviations, chemical formulas, jargon.**

What are Some Pitfalls of Abstracts?

- **Extraneous detail** or information or **conclusions not stated in the paper.**
- **Wrong type** (informative versus descriptive).
- Contains **abbreviations, chemical formulas, jargon or references to the literature, tables, or figures.**
- Failure to state the **purpose of the work at the outset.**
- Failure to **state the importance of the work and where it leads at the end.**

Descriptive Abstract: Example

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Source: Kumar, S., and J. Dumanis. "The fly caspases." *Cell Death Differ.* 2000 Nov; 7(11):1039-44. Review.

Informative Abstract: Example

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Source: Ryoo, H. D., et al. "Regulation of Drosophila IAP1 degradation and apoptosis by reaper and ubcD1." Nat Cell Biol. 2002 Jun; 4(6):432-8.

Informative Abstract: Example

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Source: Zimmermann, K. C., et al. "The role of ARK in stress-induced apoptosis in *Drosophila* cells." *J Cell Biol.* 2002 Mar 18; 156(6):1077-87.

Abstract Checklist

- Every abstract has a little:
 - Introduction
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - Conclusion
- Make the bottom line of your Abstract match the bottom line of your discussion.
- Write it last.