Abstracts

PIH Cross-site COVID-19 Writing Workshop

What is the role of the <u>abstract</u>?

- **This is a basic summary of the work:**
  - A stand-alone representation of the work.

  - Should convince the editor/reviewer that the work is important enough to be featured.

  - Should convince the reader that the work is interesting enough to read.

What goes into an abstract?

- Research-based abstracts:
  - <u>Background</u>: What is known and why this study is important?
    - Objective statement
  - <u>Methods:</u> Who was included? How was data collected? What was the main analysis?
  - <u>Results</u>: What are the 2-3 most important results? Provide specifics (numbers, %, confidence intervals, p-values)
  - <u>Conclusion</u>: What is the take-away message?

- Generally: 250-350 words

Tips for abstracts

- Be brief – only focus on the most important aspects.

- Be complete – for the points that you present, make sure they are presented clearly and completely.

- Start with an outline and fill it in.

- Respect word limits/section headings required by the journal

Common mistakes

• Focus too much on background and not enough on results.

• Vague.

• Doesn't stand alone.

• Copies and pastes from the paper.

• Writing before the paper is finished.

Questions