It’s All About that Bass NO Treble: Writing
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Disclosures

• Conflict of interest
  – Mary Ann Cantrell, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN (speaker) no disclosures
  – Bette Mariani, PhD, RN (speaker) reports no conflict of interest.
Julia Greenawalt (INACSL Conference Administrator & Nurse Planner) reports no conflict of interest
Leann Horsley (INACSL Lead Nurse Planner) reports no conflict of interest

• Successful Completion
  – Attend 90% of session
  – Complete online evaluation
Upon completion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the major components of a research-based abstract
2. Examine the major components of abstracts for outstanding and less-than outstanding characteristics in provided examples
3. Develop an abstract for a selected topic
• The use of conferences as a method of disseminating research findings is becoming an increasingly important way to disseminate new information.
• Most conferences only allow a limited amount of space for a potential presenter to provide information to be reviewed by the conference scientific committee.
• This calls for the parsimonious use of words, in other words, write your abstract using clear and concise language!

(Coad & Devitt, 2006)
• Consider the purpose of an abstract.....
• The word ‘abstract’ was reviewed in the Oxford English Dictionary (2004) as forming a general concept from consideration of particular instances’ and as a ‘theoretical summary’
• Provides a succinct overview of the paper or a project

(Coad & Devitt, 2006)
• READ THE DIRECTIONS PROVIDED BY THE CONFERENCE ABSTRACT REVIEW COMMITTEE VERY CAREFULLY and OVER and OVER AGAIN
• Seek out information about the format, length, & content expected
• Seek out examples from others who have had accepted submissions
• Start Early (not the night before or day of the submission deadline)
• Be certain your topic reflects the themes of the conference
• Decide if you want to present an oral (podium) or a poster presentation. Is your topic applicable to both or only one option?
• If you will be a first time conference presenter, you may want to select a poster presentation if your confidence in speaking skills is low.
• Follow the directions carefully regarding the maximum number of words and/or characters, font size, format, and headings/subheadings.
• Do not attempt to *bend* the guidelines to fit your needs; rules are rules and not following them may have your abstract not accepted by the electronic onboarding system or rejected by the review committee.
• In other words... Play Nice in the Sandbox... You are the guest
• Be certain that you know your topic
The scientific abstract is usually divided into five unique sections:

- Title and Author Information
- Aims/Outcomes in the Introduction
- Main text/Methods
- Results (for a data-based abstract of a study or EBP project abstract)
- Conclusions
The nature of the title is dependent on the conference. Research-based conferences require a very formal title; other conferences that are less formal may appreciate a more creative title.

**KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

- Keep the title clear and concise
- Be CERTAIN that your title fully and accurately reflects what your presentation will discuss. Having a miss match between the title of an abstract and the abstract contents will likely result in a rejection.
• What is your presentation trying to achieve?
• Be as clear as possible in your thinking before you begin to write it out in a word file.
• Always first write out your submission into a Word file FIRST and copy and paste it into the onboarding submission platform.
• If you do not have complete clarity, do not start inputting information into the online submission form; exit the submission site and do some more thinking!
Aims & Outcomes

• Aims are what you are trying to achieve overall
• Outcomes are specific information/skills that you want the presentation participants to learn.
• Text needs to be informative, yet don't overdose its message.
• Say what you need to say in as few but informative words as possible.
• The first sentence should be a focused problem statement supported with literature from important sources (e.g., NCSBN simulation study; 2011 IOM report on the Future of Nursing)
• If citing literature, try to group studies that have stated similar points or concordant findings together.
• Write in the past tense
• If your abstract is in relation to a research study it is important to summarize the process.
• A few clear sentences about each element such as sample, methodology, data collection and analysis is all that is usually required.
• In contrast, if the focus of the conference is research, or your paper is primarily about the process then this section needs to be increased in both length and depth. (Coad & Devitt, 2006).
At the conclusion of your abstract reiterate the intent of what your presentation is about in a summary using one or two sentences. A thought provoking conclusion may be useful in focusing the reader’s attention. (Coad & Devitt, 2006).
Some Good Writing Tips

- Always avoid alliteration
- Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
- Employ the vernacular, utilizing common knowledge.
- Avoid ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
- Parenthetical remarks (however relevant they may seem) are rarely necessary
- It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
- Contraction aren’t used in scholarly writing.
- One should never generalize.
- Avoid quotations
- Do not be redundant or use more words than necessary for the situation; it is often superfluous.

Credit to M. Kearney PhD, RN, FAAN
• One-word sentences? Eliminate. Cease. Desist
• Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
• The passive voice is to be avoided, as was demonstrated in most of these examples.
• Even if a mixed metaphor floats your boat it should cut off at the pass.

• Who needs rhetorical questions?
• Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
• Be more or less specific.
• Finally – Understatement is always a highly superior choice.

• Credit to M. Kearney PhD, RN, FAAN
• Be impeccable about citing your references. Cite them 100% accurately and completely. Remember that abstract reviewers are content experts in the field and have likely published on topics addressed in the conference.
• A reviewer who reads an abstract submission that cites his/her work without acknowledgement of the reviewer will likely reject the submission.
• Pay attention to guidelines for a limit of the number of references required.
• Ask a colleague who is a thorough (and good) at editing and reviewing abstracts to critique your work; ask them for honest, helpful feedback.
• If you want to have another colleague to review your abstract that is fine but do not “shop your work around” to a whole tribe of folks. Having too many “minds in the fire” will cause you angst and likely to leave you confounded and bewildered....
• Before you hit that “SUBMIT” button, please review what you have inputted very carefully

• Review for grammatical errors, empty fields, missing author or reference information

• If more than 1 author, have every author review and confirm in writing that they give their consent to have the abstract submitted.

• Remember the buck stops with you as the primary author and you are responsible for the submission.
Getting started:

• Research priorities
  – Key to getting simulation studies published
  – Review the literature; what are the gaps

Foundational for conducting simulation research:

• Adherence to INACSL Standards
• Rigorous study design
• Strategic plan
• Problem statement
  – Explanation of the problem
  – How the study will address the problem
• Theoretical framework
  – What is it?
  – How will it guide the study?
• Research Question/Hypotheses
  – Is there a clear link between the problem and the question?
• Study Design
  – Methodology

  – For simulation research: including simulation development, description of simulation implementation, and debriefing
    • Have they been pilot tested, reliable, valid?

  – Instruments
    • are they valid and reliable
• Challenges to Conducting Simulation Research

  – What have you experienced?

• Ways to Overcome the Challenges?
Simulation Research Rubric

- Purpose was to provide researchers of simulation-based research with an instrument with which to evaluate simulation research.
- Can be used as a guide when developing and conducting a study.
- Focus is also on essentials elements of simulation research that may differ from other research:
  - simulation development
  - simulation implementation
  - description of the debriefing or feedback methodology
References


