

CHECKLIST:

HOW TO WRITE A KILLER ABSTRACT IN 10 SENTENCES

It's time to submit your abstract for #DiscoverBMB, but where do you begin? How do you write an abstract that will get your science noticed? Here is a checklist based on the ASBMB Today article "[How to write a killer abstract in 10 sentences](#)" by Bill Sullivan at Indiana University School of Medicine.



Sentences 1-2. Set the stage.

Convey the scientific question that keeps you up at night and why. Describe the phenomenon you are investigating and, if applicable, how it is relevant to a medical or environmental problem. Draw attention to the knowledge gap you aim to fill.



Sentence 3. State the mystery.

Frame your hypothesis as an interesting and intuitive question. This clear and focused hypothesis represents the mystery you seek to solve and should be based on the background info provided in the preceding sentences.



Sentences 4-8. Describe your detective work.

This section is the heart of the experimental effort you used to gather clues relating to the mystery you've described. Be precise and include enough details so your reader is not forced to guess what you mean.

However, you do not need to mention every experiment you completed, only those that provide clues to answering the question.



Sentence 9. Solving the mystery.

This is the climax of your abstract and what your audience has been waiting for. This sentence should state clearly how your findings contribute to solving the mystery you posed in the introduction.



Sentence 10. So what?

The final sentence of your abstract should remind the reader why your findings are important and mention how they may facilitate the development of additional research or new therapies.

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