

# Craft of Research

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Week 8: Abstracts and Formatting Tables/Figures

# Outline

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- Videoconference recap
- Abstracts
- Tables
- Figures
- Upcoming
- Kayaking waivers

# Videoconference

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Evaluation

# Abstracts

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How was this process?

# Main Functions of an Abstract

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- Answers three questions:
  1. What did you do?
  2. How did you do it?
  3. What did you learn that was not known before?

# Types of Abstracts

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## **Informative Abstracts**

- Experiment, investigation, or study
- Previews whole paper
  - Intro/Purpose
  - Methodology
  - Results
  - Discussion

## **Indicative Abstracts**

- Essays, editorials, or books
- Helps understand the subject matter
  - Scope
  - Arguments used
  - Conclusions

# Informative (IMRD) Content

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## Introduction

- Authors purpose/objective
- Goals of preset research
- Problems to be addressed

## Methodology

- How the problem and goal was addressed
- Data
- Brief methodological techniques

# Informative (IMRD) Content

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## Results

- Summarize general/key findings
- Brief statistical outcomes
- Identifies contradictory evidence

## Discussion

- Interpretation of results
- Implications for future
- Practical applications

# A. B. C.s for Self-Checking

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## **Accuracy**

- Only information from your presentation or manuscript

## **Brevity**

- Quickly get to the point
- Precise language

## **Clarity**

- Explain acronyms, avoid jargon, be
- Direct

# General Tips

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- Complete sentences
- Active verbs
- Familiar language
- Typical length 250 – 500 words

# Displaying Results

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Formatting Tables and Figures

# Purpose of Data Displays

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- Exploration
- Communication
- Calculation
- Storage
- Decoration

**Which purpose is most common in scientific publications? Why?**

# Tips for Data Displays

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- Keep your reader in mind
- Place compared items next to each other
- Place labels clearly
- Readable fonts
- All info needed to understand the display
- Free of extraneous materials

**Expert tip:** You should be able to completely understand the display from the information provided in it

# Creating Tables and Figures

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- Use table and border options in word
- Headers/titles above tables, below figures
  - E.g., “*Table 1. Participant Demographics*”  
“*Figure 1. Hypothesized mediation model*”
- Only essential materials
- Font size, alignment, and spacing
- Use “*Note.*” and captions to explain abbreviations and relevant info for understanding display
- Consistency and professionalism

# Table Checklist

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- ✓ Is the table necessary?
- ✓ Does it belong in the print version of the article?
- ✓ Are all comparable tables consistent in presentation?
- ✓ Is the title brief, but explanatory?
- ✓ Does every column have a column head?
- ✓ Are all abbreviations explained?
- ✓ Are the notes in the following order: general, specific, probability?
- ✓ Is the table referred to in the text?

# Figure Checklist

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- ✓ Is the figure necessary?
- ✓ Is it simple, clear, and free of extraneous details?
- ✓ Is the title descriptive of the content in the figure?
- ✓ Are all elements of the figure clearly labeled?
- ✓ Are the magnitude, scale, and direction of grid elements clearly labeled?
- ✓ Are figures of equally important concepts prepared according to the same scale?
- ✓ Are figures numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals?
- ✓ Are all figures mentioned in the text?

# Upcoming

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## Week 9

- Building CVs

## Deadlines

- FINAL posters to Amy by 7/31 (Monday) at noon
- FINAL papers due to mentors in week 10
  - Decide specific deadline with your grad students

# Kayak Trip Waivers

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Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am at State Gym outdoor rec

- Hydration
- Sunscreen
- Apparel