

BIO342 Animal Behavior: How to write a seven sentence Abstract:

(You need not follow exactly this template but use it as a guide.)

1. **Introduction. In one sentence, what's the topic?** Phrase it in a way that any scientific reader will understand. For Bio342, consider your audience to be other undergraduate students in Biology not necessarily in Animal Behavior.
2. **State your key research question.** What is the research problem you tackle? Again, in one sentence, state the central question that you address. Remember, your first sentence introduced the overall topic, so now you can build on that, and focus on one key question within that topic but this is still a biological topic, not your explicit experiment. If you can't summarize your IP in one key question, you are probably thinking too narrowly.
3. **Summarize (in one sentence) why the current literature fails to adequately answer your research question yet.** This will not cover everything that has been done previously. Here, you have to boil that down to one sentence giving both the strength of that past research and the gaps that remain. Don't try and cover all the various detailed ways in which people have tried and failed; the trick is to explain that there's this one particular approach that nobody else tried yet (i.e. the thing that your research does). You need to explain in a few words what the general message in the current literature is in order to convey what's missing.
4. **Explain, in one sentence, how you tackled the research question.** What's your big new idea or research strategy? This is not the experimental design or even the explicit techniques but the approach you used (gene expression analysis, anatomical localization, functional studies, pharmacological manipulation, behavioral observation, field collections, etc). Think about how this perspective is a novel approach to your research question (sentence 2).
5. **In one sentence, how did you go about doing the research that follows from your big idea (4).** What type of techniques were used? Remember, this is an abstract, not detailed methods. Tell your reader what you did but you don't need sample sizes, detailed protocols, etc.
6. **In one sentence what was your major result.** This will be our experimental outcome, but it should be worded in a more general sense related to the key research question (2). Do not include statistics (no means, variance, p-values). This should interpret the experimental results in terms of their biological meaning.
7. **In one sentence state the key impact of your research.** Here we're not looking for the outcome of an experiment (that was #6). We're looking for a summary of the implications. What's it all mean? Why should other people care? What can they do with your research.

For Class, include your poster title & the names of the students on the project.

Up Load to Moodle by **Saturday before the poster** session as a word document.