

Homework 6  
Abstracts

I consider Abstract 2 to be the best. Abstract 2 focuses on covering the technical content of the article, starting with the definition of a tetrachromat, continuing with the biological basis for tetrachromacy, and finally mentioning the study searching for tetrachromats and some of the evolutionary context of tetrachromacy. This broad but thorough technical coverage is crucial for an informative abstract.

The abstract could have discussed in detail the Newcastle University study on tetrachromacy in animals, but, taking into account the word limit, the abstract did a good job of overviewing the information in the article. It also avoided adding any interpretation or emphasis that was not present in the article.

Abstract 1 is quite similar to Abstract 2, but fails to even mention the research study. Also, the last two sentences of Abstract 1 seem strangely worded to the point of causing some confusion.

Abstract 3, in contrast, discusses the research study in too much depth, at the cost of neglecting some important facts about tetrachromacy.

Abstract 4 makes the same mistake as Abstract 3, and also places some emphasis on the wrong facts due to its first sentence.

Abstract 5 fails entirely to present the term “tetrachromat,” thus omitting perhaps the most central fact in the article. Admittedly, the abstract manages very well to convey the facts without referring to the word.

Abstract 6 is written from an external perspective, which is incorrect for an informative abstract, although the material coverage is both thorough and concise.