

The 10 sentences in an abstract
(You'll have a paper or proposal once you expand the 10 sentences)

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When you write a paper or proposal or summarize a paper (or a talk), follow this formula and make sure it's in that order.

Title:

Introduction

Sentence 1: What is the scientific problem or controversy (Show me the “landscape”)

Sentence 2: Why is it important? (Who cares? How does the problem link to other important problems?)

Sentence 3: Show me the general idea of how you could make progresses in resolving this problem/controversy. Is it the whole problem you are going to tackle or just part of it? Which part? How does this part fit into the whole problem?

Sentence 4: What is or are the specific hypotheses or model(s) to be tested in this paper or proposal? Present your hypothesis pertinent to the specific research problem you are working on. You present some rationale for the hypothesis. But, really, here is the only place in the entire flow of your story where a logic is not needed.

Sentence 5: What's the general research approach or strategy of testing the hypothesis? Why should it work? Emphasize the originality of your approach. This can be a list of specific predictions the hypothesis is projecting. The quality and effectiveness of your hypothesis is positively correlated with specificity or vulnerability of your hypothesis (or how easily your predictions can be proven wrong).
(Here you can add extended Introduction content such as “Geological Context”)

Sentence 6:

Method or experimental design (the bolts and nuts; the details; emphasize the original stuff)
(If it's a proposal, stop here and add other required materials such as Prior research results, work timetable, personnel responsibility, available facility, ...)

Sentence 7:

Results (be sure there is no interpretation in this session. Just data, well-organized data)

Sentence 8:

Discussion (Your explanation of the data. Tie to what you set up in the introduction; are the results supporting or negating the hypotheses? Do not go beyond what's been set up in the Intro!)

Sentence 9-10:

Conclusions and Implications (Do not under- or over-interpret the data)
For a review paper: suggesting future research in this direction.

Acknowledgement

References