

Short Talk and Abstract Instructions

Short Talk

Your talk should follow these guidelines:

1. Time: 2 minutes long (max)
2. Medium: You must use a single sheet of paper, nominally 8.5" x 11" (you can use both sides). You will use this document to give your talk with a standard classroom overhead projector.
3. Title: You should have a short but descriptive title.
4. Big Picture Motivation: Roughly half of your talk should be on the scientific motivation for your research.
5. What and How: Roughly half of your talk should explain what you are doing in your research.
6. Figures: Your talk should include at least one figure to support your explanation.
7. Research group: You should indicate the research group or professor with whom you are working.

Abstract

Imagine that your research project goes rather well, and you accomplish all of your objectives. You should write an abstract for a fictional talk that you will give that reports your results at the end of your project. Your abstract should follow the guidelines below:

1. Title: You should have short but descriptive title.
2. Authors: You are the first author. Your research advisor is the last author. You should include other students (undergraduate or graduate) or co-workers, who played an important role in the research, as authors.
3. Length: The main body of the abstract should be 120 words or less (title and author list not include). The minimum length is roughly 100 words.
4. Content: The abstract is a summary of your research, not an introduction to it, though you must briefly introduce the research topic. The abstract should include the motivation for the research ("the why", i.e. the "big picture" motivation) and the (fictional) results of the research ("the what" and "the how"), as well as its importance and possible future applications (scientific, industrial, commercial, social, etc ...). You should make some sort of quantitative statement regarding your (fictional) results. The (fictional) results should be reasonable within the time frame of your senior thesis project (though I will not hold you to them when you defend).
5. Marketing: The abstract should make your research as interesting as possible/reasonable.
6. Disclaimer: Since the abstract does not describe real results, you should add a one-sentence disclaimer paragraph at the end that states: "This abstract describes fictional results that may or may not be realized in the near future." This disclaimer is not included in the word count.