Abstract Writing and Poster Making Skills Seminar

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Abstract

- Abstracts are expected to report the basic informational content of the poster
- Abstracts are written in passive voice, past-tense
- 150 word limit, not including title and authors
Abstract Content

- The abstract must summarize the technical content of the poster and furnish sufficient information to allow the reader to judge whether he or she should consult the poster for all of the details.
- The abstract must be self-contained and understandable apart from and without reference to the poster.
Abstract Content (con’t)

- It can be assumed that the reader is knowledgeable in the field, but special terminology, abbreviations, and jargon should be defined.
- The abstract can include a brief statement of why the work was done, but it should not include background or other introductory material.
- The abstract should answer any questions posed by the title.
The First Sentence

- The first sentence is critical.
- It is usually a brief information statement of the major results reported in the poster.
- It does not include a restatement of the title. It may contain specific data. For example, a general statement that an important measurement was made is insufficient; include the results.
- Facts contained in the first sentence are not repeated later.
The text that follows the first sentence may consist of supporting statements, methodology, test results, activities of the users for chemical compounds studied, indications of the number and types of chemical compounds included, limits of accuracy and reliability, and additional results and conclusions.
This information is described concisely but informatively to the degree necessary for understanding. Only enough data are given to support the results and conclusions.

Interpretation must be differentiated from fact. Predictions and plans for future work are omitted. Negative results and unsuccessful experiments are reported in a general, summarized form.
Poster

- A poster should be self-explanatory; the main points should be communicated without the presenter’s explanation.
- Prepare an oral presentation of no more than 5 minutes to walk interested parties through your poster.
- Allow people to peruse your poster for a minute before offering to lead them through it.
Poster Layout

- Arrange the poster panels or printout for logical flow from top left to lower right
- Text, figures and photographs should be readable from a distance of 3-4 feet
- Use a font such as Arial or Helvetica in a minimum size of 24 pt. (1/4 inch high)
- Area for poster is limited to 4’x4’
Poster Content

- Title
- Overview
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions
- References / Acknowledgments
Using a Poster Printer
Title

- Should convey the main message of your poster
- Banner in large type which contains a descriptive title, the authors, and their affiliations
- Should be placed high on the poster
Overview

- A succinct summary of purpose, methods and results
- Use phrases rather than sentences in a simple outline format
- Place in upper left section of posterboard
Introduction

- A concise statement of the objective of the work
- A description of the background of the work
Methods

- Description of apparatus, chemistry, samples, materials, etc.
- In some, but not overwhelming detail
Results

- Graphs, Spectra, charts, pictures, etc.
- Use a minimum of text to illustrate the nature of the results
Conclusions

- Concise statement of the findings (positive, as well as negative)
- Indicate future research directions
References / Acknowledgments

- References and acknowledgments are located at the end of the poster
- Acknowledgements include those who are not authors, but contributed to your work
- A quick guide to Reference citations using the ACS Style guide can be found at this website

http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/CHEM/acsstyle.html
Microsoft PowerPoint

- The easiest way to make your poster is in PowerPoint
- Can make either a multi-paneled poster or use one slide and print on poster printer
Slide Layout

Click to add title

Click to add subtitle

Click to add notes
Slide Design

Click to add title

Click to add subtitle

Click to add notes
New Slide

Click to add title

- Click to add text
Insert Picture

Click to add title

- Click to add text

Click to add notes
Poster Format