

# Writing an abstract

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Mathematical Modeling for Infectious Disease Planning

What is the goal of an abstract?

# Abstract formats vary

- European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (structured):

“The text of the entire abstract must not exceed 350 words (excluding title and figure descriptions). Please ensure that different sections of your abstract are entered into the appropriate textbox (**Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions**). Please use the figure upload fields at the bottom to select up to 3 images. Figure sections can be used to upload images, graphs, or tables.”
- IDWeek (unstructured):

“The abstract character limit is 1950 (spaces are not counted). Title and authors do not count against the 1950-character limit. Figures are accepted and they do not count towards the character limit.”

# Structured abstracts (and good for unstructured, too)

- Title
  - Succinct summary of key question / finding
  - Avoid subtitles or abbreviations/acronyms
- Background
  - What is the necessary context to frame the project?
  - Why is the question you studied important?
- Methods
  - What tools and techniques did you use to address the question?
  - Study design, setting, population
- Results
  - Summarize the key (positive and negative) results from your work that are most relevant to your question.
  - Provide quantitative results
  - No discussion of the results
- Conclusions (Implications)
  - Here provide a discussion of the results and their implications
- Key words

# An abstract should be...

- Clear
  - Be specific.
  - Use the active voice.
  - Avoid acronyms and abbreviations.
- Concise
  - Economical word choice
  - No repetition
- Accurate
  - Don't overstate your findings or their implications

What makes for good abstracts?