

Writing a Lay/Public Abstract

A summary about your research...

- What do you hope to prove?
- Why is it important to patients?
- Why do you think it will work/be successful?
- How may it ultimately improve how people feel, function, or survive?



What You Need to Know

Think about your audience

Use common, everyday words
Keep it short and to the point

Avoid medical jargon and acronyms

Keep sentences to less than 15 words and brief paragraphs.

Split 1 long sentence into 2 short sentences

Organize and filter content

Use clear descriptive headings
Include only what your audience needs to know
Use bulleted lists where practical

Start with a good title or short descriptive paragraph highlighting the importance of your research

Use meaningful headings

Logically walk the reader through your research

Other things to keep in mind

Use complete sentences
Use appropriate punctuation and grammar
Spell check

Every sentence should have a noun and a verb

Appropriate grammar makes it easier to read and understand

Misspellings are not good

Writing about impact

Be precise and specific
How will your research improve the lives of patients
If successful what will it lead to a solution for an overarching research challenge

Do not use vague words like impact and or affect

It may take more than one sentence to be more specific

Tell the reader why this research is important to this field of research

When you think you are done...

Proofread with fresh eyes
Read it aloud
Take it for a test drive – give it to a non-scientific person to read

Resources

[Hemingway](#) – check for readability

[Grammarly](#) – check for readability

[NCI Dictionary](#) – definitions of common cancer terms