

## 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