Tips for Preparing Your Abstract

Abstracts submission opens 1 June; deadline: 20 July

THE ABSTRACT
The purpose of an abstract is not to tell the reader the topic of the study, but rather to deliver the findings. In other words, a good abstract should have all the elements found in a peer-reviewed, published paper. This includes background/introduction, methods, results, discussion, and conclusions. You are limited to 2,000 characters (including spaces and punctuation).

1. First, provide a summary statement that places your study in context and defines the overall purpose or problem being addressed.
2. Next, include a sentence that summarizes your approach to the problem – mapping done, analyses performed, methods, and so forth.
3. Use three to five sentences to deliver the meat of the abstract (results/data).
4. Use three to five sentences for interpretive discussion.
5. Finally, provide a one-sentence summary of your conclusions and then another to relate your study back to the “big picture” (why does this work matter?).

AUTHORSHIP
1. Anyone whose contribution was important to the success of the study should be listed as a co-author.
2. The person actually writing and preparing the abstract is usually the first author.
3. Co-authors typically include advisors/professors who supervised the research, field or lab assistants who provided key help or ideas, or other members of a research team who are working collaboratively.
4. Be sure to provide co-authors a chance to edit drafts of the abstract, preferably with plenty of time before the 20 July submission deadline.

OPTIONS FOR SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT TO GSA CONNECTS 2021:
1. Either apply it to a topical session, which is highly focused on a single issue or research question, or
2. Submit it to a discipline session, which is a broad setting for any research in the geosciences.

https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2021

Summarized from information provided by Daniel Deocampo, Georgia State University.