

Guidelines for writing Titles and Abstracts:

Title: (usually between 10 and 20 words)

What is the point of the paper? What is the major finding or conclusion of the paper?
What would the authors want to tell a reader if they only had one sentence?

Look at the titles of the papers we have already discussed in class for some examples.

Abstract: (usually around 10 sentences or maximum of 200 words)

What is the general topic addressed by this paper? Why is the study important? Why should we care?

The first sentence of the Abstract should contain some form of this information.

What do the authors claim to have demonstrated? What are the key results of the experiments?

This is the bulk of the Abstract. Think about the claims with respect to the terms: necessary, sufficient, required, mechanism, model.

In summary, what do the authors conclude and what are the implications?

The last sentence of the Abstract should wrap up the claims into a larger conclusion and hint at the implications for our understanding of how something works.