

# Writing a publication

The title, abstract, and acknowledgements

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- Titles must be as brief as possible, but clearly explain the content of the article, and should ideally not exceed 10 words in length
- Titles do not exceed two lines in print. This equates to 75 characters (including spaces) for Articles. They should include sufficient detail for indexing purposes but be general enough for readers outside the field to appreciate what the paper is about
- Titles should clearly and concisely reflect the emphasis and content of the manuscript and be accessible to a broad audience. A well-crafted title aids in successful information retrieval.

## The title

- Effects of an aqueous leaf extract of *Sansevieria senegambica* Baker on plasma biochemistry and haematological indices of salt-loaded rats  
(20 words, 138 characters)
- High-precision measurement of the half-life of  $^{147}\text{Sm}$   
(8 words, 54 characters)
- Teaching high school chemistry in the context of pharmacology help both teachers and students learn  
(16 words, 101 characters)
- Female faculty members in university chemistry departments: Observation and conclusion based on site visits (15 words, 109 characters)

- Gender based barriers to success still persists for females in chemistry departments  
(12 words, 83 characters)
- Perception of isolation and marginalisation amongst female chemists in universities  
(10 words, 84 characters)

- A good title is a concise but informative summary of your document
- Titles normally do not include numbers, acronyms, abbreviations, or punctuation
- Good titles do not contain “waste” words, like “a study of”, “observations on”, “research on”, “report on”, etc.
- Choose specific rather than general terms
- Rewrite the title after you have finished your report so that it is a concise summary of the work reported
- Titles are also used for indexing and abstracting services. Keep that in mind when you write your title

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**The detail of all people who have contributed substantially to the study but cannot be regarded as co-authors,**

e.g. statistical analysts, data collectors, analytical technicians, etc.

- The authors are grateful to Mr. Z Biro and Mr. I. Laszlo for their technical assistance.
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## *First to be read – last to be written*

- An abstract is a concise summary of the whole paper, not just the conclusions. The abstract should be no more than 250 words and convey the following:
  1. An introduction to the work. This should be accessible by scientists in any field and express the necessity of the experiments executed
  2. Some scientific detail regarding the background to the problem
  3. A summary of the main result
  4. The implications of the result
  5. A broader perspective of the results, once again understandable across scientific disciplines

It is crucial that the abstract convey the importance of the work and be understandable without reference to the rest of the manuscript to a multidisciplinary audience. Abstracts should not contain any citation to other published works.

# Key elements of an Abstract

1. Contextualizing background and defining the problem
2. Objectives and scope
3. Method
4. Results and discussion
5. Conclusion
6. Consequence of the work

- An abstract must be able to stand alone and should never give any information or conclusion that is not stated in the article.
- State what is original in your research.
- Try to include keywords directly related to your research.

- No references, unless absolutely necessary, should be included in the abstract. If a reference is included, then the detailed information (author, title, year, etc.) must be provided in the abstract.
- Do not refer to tables and figures.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms unless the original word is very long and repeated a few times. If this is the case then the abbreviation/acronym must be defined the first time it is mentioned.