

CHEM 681 Graduate Literature Seminar: Abstract

Assignment: Prepare a one-page abstract to accompany your Chemistry 681 presentation.

Objective: This assignment is designed to give you practice at writing a scientific abstract.

Topic: A chemical research area that is not directly related to your research chosen by you and your advisor before the beginning of your second year of study.

Target Audience: Chemistry graduate students

Instructions: Prepare a 150-200 word abstract describing the content of your presentation.

The abstract should be approximately 6 sentences and include the following sections:

- 1) Talk Title
- 2) Talk Date, Time and Location
- 3) Your Name
- 4) Topic – Summarize the topic in one sentence. *What is the topic and why is it relevant?*
- 5) Problem – Summarize the question the researchers were trying to answer in one sentence. *What question is being asked?*
- 6) Background – Summarize what has already been done in this field. *Why has nobody else answered this question? How have other people tried to answer this question?*
- 7) Method/Approach – Summarize the method or approach used to solve the problem in one sentence. *How was the question answered? Why is this method/approach better than other methods/approaches?*
- 8) Results – Summarize the experimental results in 1 sentence. *What are the major results?*
- 9) Conclusions/Impact – Summarize the conclusions that can be drawn from these results while stressing the broader impact of the research in 1 sentence. *What conclusions can be drawn? Why should the chemical community (and beyond) care about this work?*
- 10) Figure – Insert a relevant figure/illustration below the text of your abstract.

Notes

- Your abstract should be no longer than one page in length.
- References should be formatted according to ACS guidelines.
- Writing and formatting an abstract will be discussed during the first day of class in the fall semester.

Grading: Faculty seminar coordinators will grade the abstract on a scale of A-F as part of your presentation grade.

Due Date: Abstracts will be posted one week prior to your seminar. Upload a copy of the abstract to eCampus by 4:00 pm on the Monday preceding your seminar.