

Titles and
Abstracts and
References,
Oh My!



Fact or Fiction?

- Most readers only read the title/abstract for a paper

FACT!!!!!!

Outline

- Chemistry Department Seminar Abstract Requirements
 - Basic requirements
 - Topic choice
- Title
- Abstract
- References

Abstract Form

- Can be found at:
https://www.csus.edu/college/natural-sciences-mathematics/chemistry/_internal/_documents/literature-seminar-abstract-approval.pdf
- Must be submitted by either May 1st or December 1st prior to the beginning of the semester in which seminar will be presented
 - Approved by graduate mentor first, then submitted to graduate committee for final approval

Chemistry Department Seminar Abstract Requirements

- Topic choice
- Title
- 500 word abstract (single-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 in. margins)
 - Background information on topic
 - Research results to be presented/analyzed
- Key literature references

Topic Choice

- Must be a topic that is relevant and of current interest in the chemistry/biochemistry community
- Must not have been addressed recently in a student seminar
- Cannot be closely related to the thesis research
- Must have approval from both the graduate mentor and graduate committee

Title

- Definition (noun): The name of a book, composition or other artistic work.

Elements of a Great Title

- Keep it concise, don't be overly wordy
- Be descriptive
 - Your title should effectively convey what the talk will be about
 - Your title may be all someone reads!
- Don't use abbreviations or acronyms
- You can be witty, but don't overdo it
 - This is still a professional presentation...

Abstract

- Definition (noun): A summary of the contents of a book, article or a formal speech

Parts of an Abstract

- Background information
- Results to be discussed/analyzed

Background Information

- What information does the reader need to know to be able to understand what the talk will be about?
- Logical information flow
 - Present information going from general → specific
- There is such a thing as too much background...
 - Only include what is absolutely necessary
 - You can go more in-depth in seminar

Results to be discussed/analyzed

- What are some examples of studies you will be presenting?
- This should complement the background information
- This is not intended to be a laundry list of topics
 - This section should present the key points of the selected studies
 - Put a little thought into this!

References

- Definition (noun): Use of a source of information in order to ascertain something.

Reference List

At the end of your abstract, you must provide a list of key references that have been used to develop your abstract

- These should be **full** citations
 - author(s), journal name, year, volume(issue), pages (**HINT: USE ENDNOTE!!!!**)
- References must be from peer-reviewed sources
 - Most should be from the primary literature
 - Some review articles are okay
 - On-line encyclopedias such as Wikipedia are not acceptable references
- Most of your sources should be current
 - 4 years old or newer

Other considerations

- Start early
 - Abstracts are due the May 1st or December 1st prior to seminar date
- Spell check!
- Use Endnote to format your references
- Make sure your abstract has good “readability”
 - Read your abstract out loud to yourself and fix any awkward sentences, run-on sentences, sentence fragments or grammar issues



Questions?????