

Midwestern Section ASAS and Midwest Branch ADSA[®]

March 12-14, 2018

Quality Standards for Abstracts

Abstract Definition

An abstract is a communication of restricted length that permits informed readers to evaluate significant contributions of a scientific study, method, or technique utilized in research, teaching, or extension. An abstract becomes a part of the permanent literature. Therefore, clearly stated, simple sentences with exact wording must be used to ensure clarity and brevity.

An Abstract Should Include:

1. The objective(s) of the presentation clearly and concisely stated at the beginning of the abstract
2. Pertinent methodological information (such as population and sample, design and size, instrumentation, data collection, and data analysis) is to be included
3. The information in the abstract is to include details that directly influence the interpretation or enhance the understanding of the results or methodologies presented.
4. The results are to be compiled, condensed, and written with clarity. Information presented should relate to the objectives. Statistical inferences should authenticate the interpretation of the data. An illustrative table may be included if it is an effective method to convey the results.
5. Abstracts detailing teaching/extension methods must be innovative, such as a new idea or creative modification or application of an existing idea, and be supported by data.
6. A clearly stated conclusion is essential.

An Abstract is Unacceptable if it...

1. Contains grammatical errors and (or) meaningless statements such as: "The results will be presented."
2. Presents data without appropriate statistical analyses or measurements of data variability.
3. Includes no data or statements relating to the objective(s).
4. Does not use the metric system.
5. Contains typing errors.
6. Fails to comply with submission requirements.
7. Presents opinion/speculation with no data to demonstrate its use in a research/teaching/extension experience.

Abstract Quality

The quality of an abstract for presentation is a direct reflection on the image of the author(s) and the American Society of Animal Science. If you need clarification or additional information on abstract quality or submission, please contact the chairperson of your section or the business office.