

BASIC STRUCTURE OF A CONFERENCE PAPER

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KOTZ & CALS WRITING TIPS

Tip 1 - How to get started: choose the optimal environment!

OCAR Structure

- Opening, Challenge, Action, and Resolution
- “A good paper or proposal describes the larger problem and central “characters” (O); it frames an interesting question (C); it presents your research plan and results, developing the action (A); and it leaves the reader with an important conclusion about how our understanding of the world has changed as a result of the work (R).”



<https://stumblingtowardgrace.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/short-story.jpg>

- Schimel, J, Writing Science

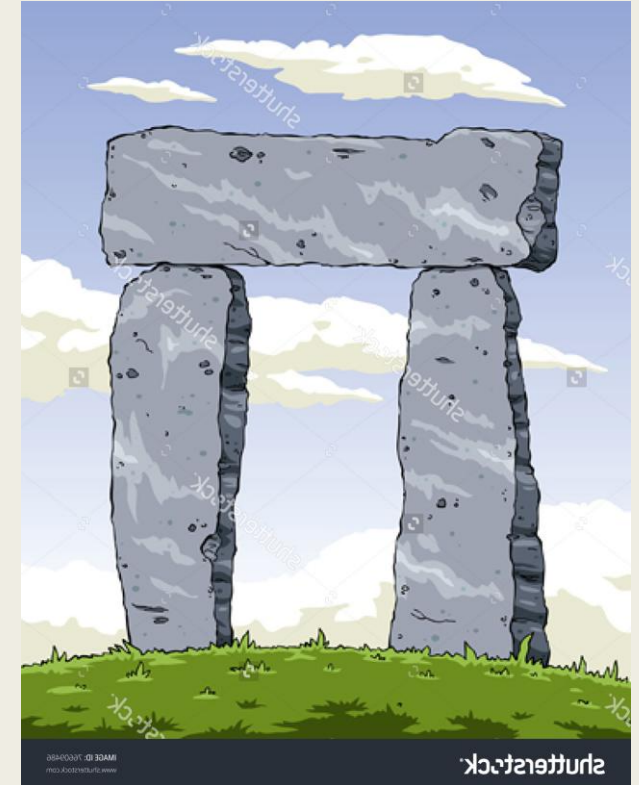
Paper structures

Classic

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions

Alternate

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methods
- Analysis theme 1
- Analysis theme 2
- Analysis theme 3
- Synthesis





Tip 2 - Title and abstract: sell your paper!



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Tip 3 - Introduction: work on that funnel shape!

Thought Experiment

Consider the research you are doing at this time. First read aloud the following sentence beginnings, completing them appropriately for your research.

1. I have done research on _____ .
2. Other researchers have found _____ .
3. The problem is _____ .
4. The question I am trying to answer is _____ .
5. This is important because _____ .
6. The research method I used was _____ .
7. I found _____ and _____ .
8. I also found _____ .
9. This implies _____ .

You've just mumbled about 200 words. Now write those words down, include the numbers for the results, eliminate the passive tense, eliminate the personal pronouns, and you have got a rough abstract.