BASIC STRUCTURE
OF A CONFERENCE PAPER

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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).”

  - 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!

...With easy to find keywords!
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.