

Abstracts
where to start, how to start, help....

Deborah Tihanyi
Director, Engineering Communication Program

Arman Ghaffarizadeh
MASc Candidate



June 29, 2017



Tonight we'll look at

1. Challenges associated with writing abstracts
2. The UnERD rubrics and how to interpret them
3. Planning your abstract
4. Factors that go into selecting UnERD participants



Arman's story: Writing an abstract for [conference?]

1. Promise what you'll be able to deliver
2. Consider the context you're working in:
 1. Role of your supervisor: what he/she wants
 2. Clarity of contributions for each person on the team (including yourself)
3. How the current work fits into:
 1. the broader field
 2. what's happening in your lab

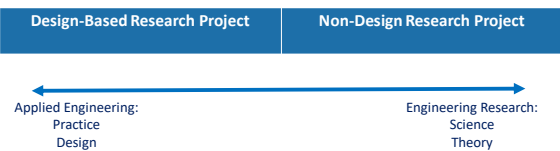


Arman's story: Writing an abstract for [conference?]

3. Consider your audience
 1. Educated and may know about your field, but not about the specific topic, so:
 1. Tell a story (context, rationale, gap) and consider what's exciting about your work
 2. Make it scientific but consider audience's facility with topic-specific jargon
 3. Be specific and measurable—avoid vague terms



Design-Based OR Non-Design Research Project?



What is the context you're working in?
- determines how your abstract will be evaluated



UnERD rubrics and how to interpret them

Design Research Abstract	Non-Design Research Abstract
Problem Framing	Problem Framing
Design Process	Methods
Results	Results and Discussion



UnERD rubrics and how to interpret them

Design Research Abstract: Problem Framing	Non-Design Research Abstract: Problem Framing
Background: context of broader field/your lab	Background: context of broader field/your lab
Gap: what's missing	Gap: what's missing
Purpose: how your project fills the gap	Purpose/hypothesis: how your project fills the gap



UnERD rubrics and how to interpret them

Design Research Abstract: Design Process	Non-Design Research Abstract: Methods
Design Objectives: clearly stated	Experimental Protocol: what you're doing/going to do and how it suits the purpose/hypothesis
Metrics: measurable and appropriate for objectives	
Description and Justification: what you're going to do and how it suits objectives	



UnERD rubrics and how to interpret them

Design Research Abstract: Results	Non-Design Research Abstract: Results and Discussion
Outline and Discussion: Progress and next steps evaluated in relation to metrics and their significance to the larger field	Results: clear statement of preliminary and/or expected results
	Discussion: Implications and significance of results and their relationship to purpose/hypothesis



UnERD rubrics and how to interpret them

1. Also essential:

- 1. Title: descriptive, concise, meaningful
- 2. Language
 - 1. Consider your audience, e.g., define key terms/acronyms
 - 2. Proof-read



Let's look at some samples using the rubric criteria



Planning your abstract

- 1. Goal is to leave today with at least a skeleton of your abstract
- 2. Use the worksheet prompts to guide you
 - 1. Start anywhere you like
 - 2. If you don't have all the answers, *that's okay*—this will give you questions to ask your supervisor



Factors that go into selecting UnERD participants

- 1. Blind review process
- 2. Multiple reviewers with multiple backgrounds
- 3. Program as a whole—how does your project fit?



Abstracts due July 9 - details on the UnERD Web site

Questions or concerns?

Good luck!

