How to Write An Abstract on Your Proposed Project

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Purpose of This Session

• To discuss the basics of how to write an abstract.
• To hear from 4th year students who have done a Scholarly Year how they begin and what they have learned about the process.
• To ask any questions you have.
What Is An Abstract?

- It is different things at different times.
  - A brief summary of the project you plan to do.
  - A brief summary of the project you have done.
- When might you write each type of abstract?
How to Organize Your Thoughts

• What do you plan to do?
  - Short, sweet, clear and concise. Your mother should be able to understand it.

• Why it is important to do?
  - Given the economic issues of the time, why should someone give you money to do this?

• How you will accomplish your goals?
  - Even if you have a good project you need to have a plan for it to be feasible.
  - Describe very briefly.
The Component Parts
(If You Have No Results Yet)

- **Introduction**: a statement that introduces the problem under study and what led up to it.
- **Objective**: Hypothesis or Question you will ask. Make this compelling. Why are you bothering?
- **Methods**: How will you conduct the study?
- **Significance**: Where will a successful project lead?

If you’ve already done the project, you would have Results and Conclusions sections.
The Title - Very Important

• **Title:**
  - Directs people to what you want to do - and whether they want to know more!
    • Should be short and to the point

• **Authors:** *(Check with your mentor)*
  - First is usually the person who did most of the work - you
  - Mentor is last - senior position
    • Others who contribute to work will be in the middle

• **Institutions:**
  - Departments and institutions where work will be performed
Example: A Project With No Results Yet


- Benjamin E. Goldsmith, R. Sean Morrison, Lauren C. Vanderwerker, Holly G. Prigerson.

- Departments of Geriatrics and Medicine. Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY.
• **Introduction:** Complicated grief (CG) has been established as a debilitating disorder distinct from classifiable Major Depressive Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Anxiety disorders. However, little is known about its prevalence and manifestations across racial and ethnic groups.
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- **Objective:** To establish the prevalence of CG in white and non-white populations, to identify factors associated with the development of CG, and to compare the prevalence of grief symptoms between these groups.

- *Be specific and to the point.
• **Methods:** This project will consist of a secondary analysis of data collected from a study 205 cancer patients and their caregivers and 267 caregivers. Multivariate logistic regression will be used to identify risk factors associated with CG.
• **Significance**: If non-whites experience CG at a significantly higher rate than white survivors, it will suggest that different interventions should be considered to treat the symptoms of CG experienced by whites and non-whites.
Getting Started

- Take a look at abstracts your mentor or other students have written

- Questions?
- Comments?