

Suggestions for Preparing Your Abstract or Artist Statement

The Title:

Pick a title that is descriptive and interesting. For example, the use of humor in your title or an interesting association or combination of words may serve to attract attention to your presentation (e.g, There's Something Fishy Here: Oceanography Inspires Design).

Shorter titles generally are better than longer ones.

Keep in mind that the title is your first and best chance to interest and inform your audience about your presentation.

The Abstract:

Your abstract should clearly describe your research or scholarly activity. Someone reading your abstract should have a good understanding of the work you conducted and the purpose for conducting the project.

Your abstract should include the following:

- clear identification or explanation of the question or problem you are posing
- relevant background information to place your question/problem in context
- methods or approach you used to collect data and/or obtain information
- any preliminary or final results you have at the time of preparing your abstract
- any preliminary or final conclusions you have at the time of preparing your abstract
- a sentence or two that gives your audience a preview of what they can expect when they attend your poster, talk, or paper.

If you have not completed your research/scholarly activity at the time of preparing your abstract (a very common situation), you may want to include any preliminary findings in your abstract. Even if your conclusions change as you gather more data and synthesize your results, including preliminary conclusions in your abstract helps the reader understand some of the implications and significance of your research/scholarly activity.

The Artist Statement:

Your artist statement should clearly describe what creative work(s) will be shared with the audience. In most cases, artist statements also include:

- - an explanation of what motivated or inspired you
 - what you want the audience to see, experience and/or feel when they view your work
 - any interesting aspects of the materials or techniques used
 - any other information that will help the audience interpret and appreciate the work you are exhibiting or performing.