

### Conference Abstracts

This second type of abstract is somewhat different from the RP abstract. It is usually much longer; most of a page rather than a single paragraph (and can be even longer, especially in engineering). It is independent; in other words, whether you are accepted for the conference program depends entirely on how your conference abstract is perceived by the review panel. Your primary audience is, therefore, the conference reviewing committee. Appealing to the conference participants is a secondary consideration. At the beginning of this section, we mentioned another difference: it is very possible that you do not yet have a text to construct your abstract out of. Finally, it is also possible that you have not yet completed all the work for your RP. For example, you might have three experiments planned, but as the deadline descends on you, you have results from only two of them. In effect, your abstract may not be entirely *informative*.

In consequence of these and other factors, conference abstracts are much more of "a selling job" than RP abstracts. As a result, most conference abstracts have an opening section that attempts to

- create a research space,
- impress the review committee, and
- appeal (if accepted) to as large an **audience** as **possible**.

#### *Task Twenty-four*

Here are two successful conference abstracts written by two of our students. The versions presented are at least third drafts. The first is from music theory and the second from business management. Read them and carry out the tasks that follow.

#### *Rhythm, Meter, and the Notated Meter in Webern's Variations for Piano, Op. 27*

<sup>1</sup>One of the problematic issues in post-tonal music is the notion of rhythm and meter. <sup>2</sup>In the numerous analyses of Webern's Variations for Piano, Op. 27, analysts have failed to agree about the role of the notated meter in the rhythmic and metrical structure

of the piece. <sup>3</sup>Some claim the notated meter to be purely conventional and not to be observed in performance, while others give an alternative changing meter to the one notated. <sup>4</sup>This paper seeks to illustrate that the notion of rhythm and meter in Webern's Op. 27 is a delicate and, more significantly, an intentional interplay between the notated meter, and the rhythm and meter arising from the phrase structure of the piece. <sup>5</sup>In order to demonstrate this, the paper presents an analysis examining the phrase structure of the piece, seeing it as an interaction between the pitch and the rhythmic domain. <sup>6</sup>The analysis employs the concept of Generalized Musical Intervals (GIS) developed by Lewin, as well as applications of the traditional notion of phrase rhythm. <sup>7</sup>These features are then presented in interaction with the row structure of the piece. <sup>8</sup>The paper closes by suggesting that an essential feature in understanding rhythm and meter in Webern's Op. 27 is the interaction between the various layers of the music: that is, the underlying row structure, the surface interpretation of the row structure, the phrase rhythm, the meter, and the notated meter.

(Tiina Koivisto, very minor editing)

#### *Speed and Innovation in Cross-functional Teams*

<sup>1</sup>The competitive and uncertain business environment of the 1990s requires an accelerated product development process with greatly improved coordination and integration among cross-functional teams (Denison, Kahn and Hart 1991). <sup>2</sup>Their successful product development effort suggests that speed and variety in perspective and expertise are compatible. <sup>3</sup>Although product development using cross-functional teams has been drawing much attention from academics as well as the corporate world, research into its organization and processes is still underdeveloped. <sup>4</sup>This deficiency is significant because the traditional literature on decision making has assumed that speed and variety are, in reality, incompatible. <sup>5</sup>This paper elaborates the process of cross-functional team efforts, based on interviews and observations over a two-year period. <sup>6</sup>A model is developed and operationalized with 22 survey measures and tested with data from 183 individuals on 29 teams. <sup>7</sup>Results show that product development using

cross-functional teams is highly correlated with time compression, creativity, capability improvement, and overall effectiveness.

(Kaz Ichijo, very minor editing)

1. Underline all instances in the two texts where the authors use evaluative language to strengthen their case for the acceptability of their research.
  2. Circle all instances of metadiscourse (i.e., when the authors talk about their own texts). What difference do you see between the two authors?
  3. Where are the divisions between the "scene setting" and the actual studies in these two texts? Do the proportions of each surprise you?
  4. Why do you think the two abstracts were accepted? Were the reasons similar in each case?
  5. Where do you suppose the students were in their studies when they wrote their conference abstracts? Circle your guess.  
In Tiina's case:
    - a. All the work had been completed.
    - b. All but part of the analysis of the row structure had been done.
    - c. She had studied GIS, but had only tried it out on small samples.
- In Kaz's case:
- a. Almost everything had been done.
  - b. All the data had been collected and analyzed, but the model was not yet developed.
  - c. The data had been collected, but only analyzed in a preliminary way in order to get a sense of where it was going.

### Citations in Conference Abstracts

In many cases, a conference abstract is read and assessed fairly quickly—maybe in only a few minutes. Under these conditions it does no harm to try to indicate at the beginning that you understand what is going on in your own specialized area. For that reason, many conference abstracts contain one or two carefully selected references to recent literature. In this way, authors can communicate that they are in touch with the latest developments. However, as Tiina's abstract shows, it is not always necessary or even desirable to give the citations in full.

### *Task Twenty-five*

Your advisor contacts you about an upcoming small regional conference and suggests that you submit a conference abstract based on your current work. The deadline is ten days away. The abstracts should be anonymous and between 150 and 200 words. Make sure you have a draft ready for your next writing class.