

Abstract 1 assignment Sedimentology GY 306 W

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Submitting assignment

Due: 8/27/2021 at 11:59 PM

Submit: A .doc or .docx file to Canvas

Learning Objectives

Become comfortable with reading primary scientific literature.

Build a framework for the development of hypotheses that can be tested with sedimentology.

Summarize a scientific argument into an abstract for non-specialist researchers.

Purpose

Practice writing an abstract and distilling information down. First opportunity to get formative feedback from me to improve your writing.

Knowledge

After doing this assignment you will understand:

1. How detailed observations of sedimentary structures inform paleoclimate interpretations.
2. How to distill the important points of a paper into a single, dense paragraph.

Skills

After doing this assignment you will be able to:

1. Summarize scientific writing in your own voice.
2. Distill information for a more general audience from a technical paper.

Goals for first assignment

Write your own abstract that summarizes the research paper attached to this assignment. You can look to the original paper abstract and the annotated Nature paragraph for a guide to the style and content you should aim for.

Rhetorical aspects of an abstract

The purpose of an abstract, for a paper or conference presentation is to distill down the information given in the fully presented work into one or two short paragraphs. Abstracts generally communicate to a more general audience of scientists than the talk, poster, proposal, or paper that it describes. Abstracts can be written before, during, or after completion of the longer work. Personally, I find them useful to write as a way to distill my main ideas down and put them on paper as I work to bring a project together and communicate it to peers.

For papers and conferences there are word or character limits that constrain the characteristics of the abstract.

Paper

The assigned paper is:

Loope, D.B., Rowe, C.M., and Joeckel, R.M., 2001, Annual monsoon rains recorded by Jurassic dunes: *Nature*, v. 412, p. 64–66, [doi:10.1038/35083554](https://doi.org/10.1038/35083554)

And an annotated Nature paragraph can be found [at this site](#).

Grading rubric

I will be grading this using a 16 point system. The full rubric is on the Canvas site but an outline is below.

Context of and Purpose for Writing (4 pts)

Written to convey needed information to the audience with consideration for the knowledge they have and how they will read the work.

Content Development (4 pts)

Use of material from the paper (context, results, conclusions) to distill the most important points.

Genre and Disciplinary Conventions (4 pts)

Uses the basic rhythm of the Nature paragraph for conveying information.

Control of Syntax and Mechanics (4 pts)

Spelling, grammar, and sentence structure. See *Elements of Style* or other manual for a guide. Also, seek help from me or the writing center.