

Summarizing exercise

Find an abstract or specific aims page and the corresponding title (either written by you or someone else, but in your field so you can judge the significance of the work). If you use someone else's abstract, it should already be published. If you use part of someone else's proposal, obtain their explicit permission to use it and remove their name from the document you submit.

Submit the section itself as a Word document, including the citation if it's published, using the comment function to identify:

In a specific aims:

- A) the problem
- B) the goal
- C) the hypothesis or hypotheses

In an abstract:

- A) the problem
- B) the unknown
- C) the question
- D) the conclusion

If any part is missing, indicate where in the section it would belong and suggest what the authors should have written.

Critique the section:

- 1) How well does it grab a reader's attention? What did the authors do that made you want to read the rest of the summary? How would you suggest the authors revise the beginning to make it more interesting?
- 2) How well does it explain the significance of the results or proposed experiments? If it's an abstract, how well would it convince an editor of the highest-impact journal in which the paper could be published would send it out for review? If it's a specific aims, how likely would it be to get a primary reviewer to advocate for the proposal's funding? Why? How could it be revised to better convey the importance of the work?
- 3) To what extent did the authors make their summary into a cohesive story? What did the authors do to make the summary read smoothly? How should it be revised to make it progress more logically or fluidly?
- 4) How accurately does it match the whole story in the rest of the document? How might that affect this paper or proposal?
- 5) Assess the title—how informative is it? How attention-grabbing is it? How should it be revised to better attract the broadest possible audience?