Informative Abstracts

Purpose

These ~250-300 word abstracts are typically used for research papers, and describe the major details necessary to understand how a study was conducted.

Components

Introduction: What does your reader absolutely need to know to understand the scope and reach of your work?

Aim: What did you set out to accomplish? Why did this work need to be done? What purpose does it serve?

Methods: How did you conduct your research? How did you prepare for and perform your outreach activity? What data did you collect and from whom? What tools did you use? Did you do any evaluation?

Results/Conclusions: What is the result of your work? Are there implications for other communicators? Do you have any insights as a result of this work?

Good Example

Evaluating Impact of Astronomy Outreach and Communication: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial by Ramasamy Venugopal, Kodai Fukushima

> One of the most cited reasons for communicating astronomy to the public is that Astronomy is inspirational and exvposure to such topics leads to the development of an interest in science and STEM. Astronomy communicators, educators and professionals frequently engage with children and the general public to teach, demonstrate, and talk about Astronomy. But very rarely is the impact of such communication evaluated scientifically. The results of public communication of Astronomy are generally based on surveys and feedback forms which may not be designed to reveal weaknesses. There is a need for more rigorous evaluation methods which would reveal the successes and failures of current methods of astronomy communication and whether they might lead to any inadvertent harm. In this presentation, we share the implementation of a pilot Randomized Controlled Trial carried out in Cape Town, South Africa to test whether exposure to an astronomy intervention affects empathy and altruism in children (that is, whether astronomy induces a perspective of 'One Global Humanity' as is oft quoted). The pilot demonstrated that it is possible to use such rigorous methods to evaluate impact of astronomy outreach in an inexpensive manner.

Now consider your own work. Outline your abstract in the boxes below:

Introduction

Aim

Methods

Results/Conclusions