

Scoring Rubric for Abstracts and Case Reports

Criteria	Exceeds expectations in addressing criteria (5 points)	Strongly addresses criteria (4 points)	Adequately addresses criteria (3 points)	Addresses criteria with substantial weaknesses (2 points)	Inadequately addresses criteria (1 point)
Introduction and Hypothesis* ⁺	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction strongly demonstrates that the literature has been adequately reviewed. The introduction provides a strong, clear, and thorough, yet concise, overview to the problem. Based on the presented background and knowledge gap, a specific, clear, and testable research objective is stated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction demonstrates that the literature has been reviewed. The introduction provides a clear, somewhat thorough background to the problem. Based on the presented background and knowledge gap, a clear and testable research objective is stated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction partially demonstrates that the literature has been reviewed. The introduction provides a clear, somewhat thorough background to the problem. Based on the presented background and knowledge gap, a testable research objective is stated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction very weakly demonstrates that the literature has been reviewed. The introduction provides a background that is not informed by aims. A clear but untestable research objective is stated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction does not demonstrate that the literature has been reviewed. The introduction provides a background that is not informed by aims. A vague, untestable research objective is stated.
Methods*	The methods are clearly and concisely described so the reader can easily see how the hypothesis will be tested and how the results will confirm or reject the hypothesis.	The methods provide all relevant information necessary to understand how the hypothesis will be tested and how the results will confirm or reject the hypothesis.	The methods are adequately described.	There is a brief explanation of the methods, but not enough information is provided to test the hypothesis and/or provide context for the results.	There is a complete lack of description of methods.
Results* and Discussion ⁺	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results are clear and connected to the purpose of the study. The results strictly follow the presentation of the methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results are clear and connected to the purpose of the study. The results mainly follow the presentation of the methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results attempt to present findings but might be unclear OR some information is missing from the results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results attempt to present findings but might be unclear AND some information is missing from the results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results do not present concrete data, they are unclear findings, and/or they do not relate to the study purpose.

Each criterion will be scored from 1 (criterion not met) to 5 (criterion exceeded). Criteria with a * will be scored only for abstracts. Criteria with a + will be scored only for case reports.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results provide findings without interpretation of the results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results provide findings with some interpretation of the results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results follow the presentation of the methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results loosely follow the presentation of the methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results do not follow the presentation of the methods.
Conclusion*	The concluding statement is clearly and concisely written. It addresses the hypothesis and directly stems from the data provided.	The concluding statement addresses the hypothesis and stems directly from the data provided.	The concluding statement is adequate. It addresses the hypothesis or stems from the data.	The concluding statement is not supported by the data provided and/or does not address the hypothesis.	There is a complete lack of concluding statement.
Quality and Relevance*+	The topic is current, relevant, groundbreaking, or significant to the field and audience.	The topic is current, important, and appropriate to the field and audience.	The topic may not be current, but it is relevant to the field and audience.	The topic is only tangentially related to the field and is not current or important to the field and/or audience.	The topic is not relevant, not current, and/or lacks importance or appropriateness to the field.

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