**PATHOLOGY 408 (2018-19)**

**Assignment #2 - Scientific Abstract Assignment**

Due Dates:

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| **Date & Time** | **\*Note: all submissions are on peerScholar.** |
| **Mon Nov 5 by 11:55 AM** | Submit your draft scientific abstract. Create phase closes. |
| **Fri Nov 9 by 11:55 AM** | Review 3 peers’ abstracts including answering feedback prompts. Assess phase closes.  peerScholar does not allow late submission of peer assessments. |
| **Wed Nov 14 by 11:55 AM** | Submit your final abstract, your reflection/response, and rate the usefulness of the feedback you received from your peers.  Reflect/Revise phase closes. |

Once you receive notice that your instructor has completed grading the final abstracts, go back into peerScholar to review the grade and feedback on your final abstract; also review the usefulness ratings and explanations you received from your peers.

1. **Scenario:**

2015:

You graduated with your BMLSc degree and have been accepted as a PhD student in Dr. Jean Deaux's laboratory in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UBC. …

2018:

It is now 3 years later. Your coursework is finished and you have completed part of your project. You have prepared a progress report (see “Progress Report” under Assignment 2 on CANVAS) on your research for Dr. Deaux (PhD). Since Dr. Deaux is pleased with your work and the project, she has asked if you would consider doing a poster presentation at the 2018 American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting.

Dr. Deaux encourages you to get feedback on your draft abstract from the postdoc and the other graduate student in the lab before she reads it and you then submit it.

1. **Writing the Scientific Abstract Draft:**

**Create your draft scientific abstract in peerScholar** (NOT as a google doc - there are large formatting problems if you paste from a google doc into peerScholar). Pasting from a Word doc sometimes works but sometimes yields formatting issues – if you do this, check the formatting in peerScholar carefully and make corrections before submitting the assignment.

Write the **abstract** using content information in the **Progress Report** posted under Assignment 2 on CANVAS.

The following requirements are selected from “Preparing an Abstract for Submission” on the ASH website with one item added by your instructor.

Required Elements and Formatting for an ASH abstract:

1. Contact information: your name, degree (BMLSc), institution and e-mail address  (as per the scenario, you will be the corresponding author)
2. Co-authors: name, degree, and institution for each co-author
3. Abstract title: should be brief and clearly indicate the nature of the abstract; Must

(a) be in title case, i.e., capitalize the first letter of all words except for “and, or, nor, the, of, on, in, and to”;

(b) keep letters in lowercase or uppercase when the letters have a specific meaning, such as pH; (c) do not put a period at the end of the title

1. Abbreviations: Place abbreviations in parentheses immediately after the first mention of a term or phrase
2. **State the character count**, not including spaces, for the abstract body. The Abstract body must not exceed 3,500 characters (not including spaces)
3. Use section headings: Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusions

\*\*Tips for success\*\*

* Follow the above instructions and consult the scientific abstract rubric closely when you are creating your abstract.
* Use only text in your abstract. Do not include tables or figures.
* The writing must be predominantly original. Paraphrase the chosen content from the progress report, in your own words. The occasional sentence or phrase (not more than 3) may be used directly from the progress report, since the scenario is that “you” wrote the progress report.
* The text of the abstract body may be in multiple paragraphs, following the appropriate section heading.
* **Resources:** Recommended reading about scientific abstracts can be found under “Assignment 2” on the PATH 408 CANVAS site.

Submit the draft of your abstract into PeerScholar by the due date (**Mon Nov 5 by 11:55 AM)**.

Note: your instructor will not assess/look at this draft. However, submitting the draft on time is critical and will count towards your overall grade. If you fail to submit on time, you may not receive peer feedback.

1. **Peer Assessment of Draft Scientific Abstracts:**

* On the day following the draft submission due-date, you will receive 3 randomly assigned and anonymous scientific abstracts to review through the PeerScholar system.
* Complete your peer assessments on your own (not in pairs or groups).
* Use the provided rubric and follow the prompts in the PeerScholar system to assess each abstract and to provide formative constructive feedback. The estimated time required per abstract is ~35 - 45 min.
* Note that the peer-assigned grades will be formative only. While the “grades” will provide some feedback, the written feedback will be most critical in helping the authors to improve their abstracts.
* Submit your peer assessments **before 11:55 AM on November 9th**.

1. **Reflect on Feedback, Revise Your Abstract, and Rate the Usefulness of Your Peers’ Feedback:**

* Access the peer feedback on your abstract draft. Read and consider the feedback.
* Make any changes to your draft to create your final abstract.
* For each reviewer from whom you received feedback, rate the usefulness of their feedback within PeerScholar. Also provide a brief explanation for the scores you gave.
* Write a brief ( ~ ½ page to 1 page) reflection/response within the “**Additional Assessment**” section of the Reflect/Revise phase on how you used the peer feedback to improve your draft. In your reflection:
* List 2 or more revisions you made to your abstract based on peer feedback; explain your rationale for making these changes.
* If you chose not to use some of the feedback you received, list 1 or 2 of these items and provide a rationale for why you did not incorporate that feedback.

**Submit your final scientific abstract, your reflection/response (under Additional Assessments as described above), and usefulness ratings (including a brief explanation)** on PeerScholar by the due date (**Wed Nov 14 by 11:55 AM)**.

Your course instructor will mark your final submission and provide feedback using the same rubric you use for your peer assessments.

1. **Assessment Weighting:**

Your grade for this assignment will be determined as follows:

Your submitted Final Scientific Abstract (rated by your instructor) 60%

Peer review process\* (completion, monitored by your instructor) 30%

Quality (usefulness) of the feedback you provided to your peers (average rating by peers) 10%

\*Peer review process includes completion and on time submission of your: abstract draft (7.5%), peer reviews (10%), final abstract (2.5%), reflection/response (5%), and rating of the usefulness of your peers’ feedback on your draft (5%).

**Assignment Learning Outcomes:**

1. Summarize a scientific report concisely and accurately to fit the format of a scientific abstract for a specified conference
   * Read a scientific progress report carefully to understand the content
   * Select important information from the progress report to provide appropriate content for the abstract
   * Write your abstract in a way that is clear to peers and other scientists
   * Use appropriate vocabulary and correct grammar and punctuation
2. Follow instructions correctly in order to submit an abstract that would be selected for a conference
3. Evaluate scientific abstracts according to a rubric
4. Provide clear and constructive written feedback to peers
5. Consider peer feedback in order to improve and revise your abstract

**Relevant course outcomes**:

1. Communicate clearly and professionally
   * Improve your writing (be concise and precise in writing a scientific abstract)
   * Evaluate samples of professional writing (using rubrics)
   * Show mutual respect (to peers) - peer review
   * Provide constructive feedback to peers and utilize constructive peer feedback to improve your work
   * Read carefully in order to (1) follow instructions correctly and (2) paraphrase or respond effectively
2. Describe some requirements for a successful career in research
   * Determine where and how to communicate scientific discoveries
   * Write an effective scientific abstract (tailored to a specific conference)

**Problems/Questions about the PeerScholar system:**

If you have difficulties with the system, please submit your questions on the PeerScholar- Assignment 2 discussion board on CANVAS.

CANVAS > PATH 408 > Discussion Board > peerScholar Assignment 2 issues/questions.

We encourage you to help each other out by reading and responding to the posts in the discussion board.