

A good Title



**Sustainable Sciences Institute
(SSI)**

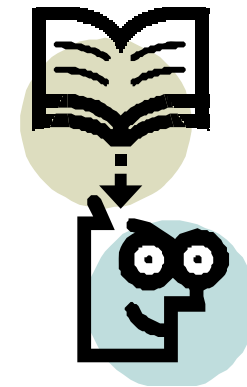
The Title



How to make it concise and yet descriptive?

Function of a Title

- ✓ Catch reader's interest
 - Title will be read by 1,000' s
 - Few will read your entire paper
- ✓ Identifies paper's main topic or message
- ✓ Indexing/searching tool in databases and reference libraries



Writing the Title

- Should ask and answer the question you addressed with your experiments (briefly)
- State your “main point”
- You may create a “working title” before you begin (like the abstract, the title may be written in one form early in the manuscript writing process, but will most likely be changed completely by the end)
 - ✓ Journal selection can affect the title.

Type of Paper Influences Title

Different kind of data = Different kind of title

What kind of paper are you presenting?

Methods

Descriptive

Intervention

Hypothesis/Research

Titles of Methods Papers

State the method you developed, improved, or characterized and what the method is used for

Example:

*Rapid Subtyping of Dengue Viruses by
Restriction Site-Specific (RSS)-PCR*

Titles of Descriptive Papers

State what is being described, where the study took place and/or the significance or impact of the finding

Examples:

Clinical, Epidemiologic, and Virologic Features of Dengue in the 1998 Epidemic in Nicaragua

Epidemiology, diagnosis and surgical trends of atrio-ventricular heart disease (congenital heart disease) in Namibia

Ref: M. Zeiger

Titles of Hypothesis Papers

State the variable being manipulated or modified, the dependent variable being observed or measured, and the study organism or location

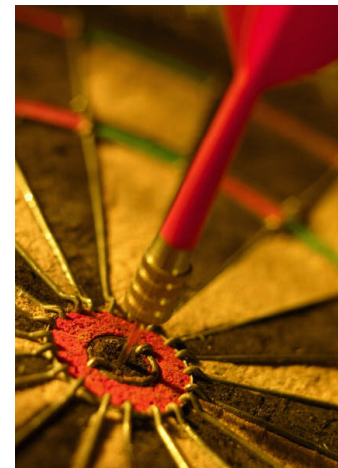
Example:

The *Onchocerca volvulus* protein Ov58GPCR has potentials to be harnessed for the diagnosis of human onchocerciasis

A Good Title is...

“The fewest possible words that adequately describe the contents of the paper.”

- Be concise and specific!



Ref: R. Day

Good Titles Are Concise

Title ≠ sentence; remove filler words

Example:

Oct-3 as a possible maternal factor required for the first division of cells in a mouse embryo

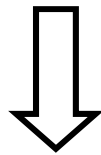
Better:

Requirement of maternal factor Oct-3 for initial mouse embryonic cell division

Good Titles Are Concise

Too wordy:

A Preliminary Study Examining the Increased Prevalence of Flaviviruses Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis Virus during the year of 2010 in Panama



More concise:

Epidemic Co-circulation of Eastern and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis in Panama in 2010

Use Few Abbreviations (Not too Concise)

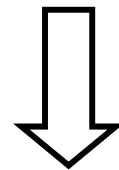
- Abbreviations will probably confuse the reader!
- Consider how a researcher would search for the word in PubMed (or other search database):
 - By the abbreviation or by spelling it out?
 - You want people to find your paper!
- Use only very common abbreviations
 - RNA, DNA, etc.
 - See Journal's "Instructions to Authors"

Title: Be Specific

Be concise, but still provide adequate information

Too Vague:

Detection of Viruses in Minas Gerais



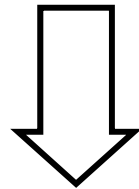
Specific:

*Detection of Hepatitis B and C Viral RNA by
RT-PCR in Adults with HIV infection in Minas Gerais*

Title: Be Specific

Vague:

Carbon Content and Forest Biomass in Uganda



Specific:

Primary Productivity of Carbon Content and Biomass of One Hectare in Zika Forest, Entebbe Uganda

Title: Be Specific

- For a methods paper:
 - No need to say “New” method for.....
 - If it is an improved method, say what the improvement is:

Mentorship And Supervisory Programme To Improve Quality Of Tuberculosis Reference Laboratories In Nigeria: An Implementation Research

Also Create the 'Running Title'

What is a Running Title?

- Shorter version of title
- Appears as a short phrase at the bottom or top of every page of the paper
- Includes key words (most important words)

Running Title

COMPLETE TITLE:

Widespread Atypical Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Caused by Leishmania chagasi in Minas Gerais, Brazil



RUNNING TITLE:

Atypical Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in Brazil

**Start thinking of your title
including your main point**