

The Fair Journal Instructions for Authors

This document contains information about the Fair Journal's aims, scope, eligibility criteria and how the layman summary should be structured.

Aims and scope

The Fair Journal is multidisciplinary, and we accept layman summaries in all fields of science including engineering, social sciences, and health sciences. If your topic is not already listed on the Fair Journal, please contact us. We are happy to start additional topics upon request.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The submission must be done by one or more of the authors from the original paper
2. The original paper must be published within one year of the layman submission
3. The original paper must be peer reviewed
4. Submissions must be done via a university email address. If you do not have one, please contact us first to verify your identity.

Contents

The layman summary from the Fair Journal consists of the following sections:

1. Title
2. Introduction
3. Findings
4. Conclusions

When you write the summary, think about how you would explain your work to a friend or family member who is not a scientist, but who has a general interest in science.

Length restrictions

There are no strict length restrictions, but please keep your summary concise and non-repetitive. As a rule of thumb, the introduction and the findings sections are usually between 200-400 words, and the conclusion is usually around 75-125 words.

Title

The title should capture the essence of the work and be easy to understand. Please keep it under 10 words.

Introduction

The introduction should be able to make readers that know very little about the topic able to understand the findings in your work. You should spend extra words on explaining the essential topics of your paper. For instance, do not assume that the reader knows in advance what superconductivity is, or what the basis of cancer is. You may refer to other scientists' work with a proper reference, and even use YouTube/Vimeo/homemade videos if it helps to get the topic accurately introduced. If using a video, you should just give us the link and we can double check whether it is copyrighted or freely available to be embedded in the article. Illustrations are also very helpful for introducing the topic, but should preferably be made by you, as most illustrations you find online are copyrighted. Finally, the introduction should also pinpoint why your study is important, e.g. by mentioning a problem you are trying to solve, or gaps in our knowledge that you are trying to fill.

Results

This section is about explaining your scientific abstract with more details. You are not supposed to go into every single detail, but you would want to give the reader a thorough overview of your findings. Sometimes findings are easier understood if you spend a little extra time describing the technique(s) that you have used. Think about how you are presenting your data when giving an oral presentation, rather than how they ended up being presented in the final paper. For some stories it is enough to explain your original figure 1, while other stories require explaining more figures, and some even requires using the appendix data to be easily understood. Again, think about how you would explain your work to a friend or family member who is not a scientist, but who has a general interest in science. Copy-pasting from the original article is strictly forbidden due to copyright issues.

Conclusion

This section should contain the main conclusion of the paper, as well as what is next after this story. The layman audience is always very interested in hearing what your findings can be used for in the future. Even if you are doing basic/fundamental research it would be good to speculate what it can be used for. However, do not overinterpret or glorify your findings, but simply just tell the truth.

Figures

We welcome authors to submit figures together with their layman summary. This can either be an overview figure of the findings, examples that help explain the concept, or alternative versions of figures from the original paper (not copyrighted by the original journal). We accept the following filetypes: jpeg, png, jpg, tiff, pdf, bmp. You can upload up to 4 figures, and each can be up to 15mb. Font size on the figures should minimum be size 8.

Peer review

The submitted layman summary will undergo peer review by one of the Fair Journal's editors. The science should already have been pre-peer reviewed at the original submission, and therefore the Fair Journal's peer review will focus on the following:

- **Readability:** Is your layman summary written in an easy to understand language?
- **Understandability:** Would a layman person be able to understand what you have written?
- **Completeness:** Is sufficient information provided to understand the background, the findings, and the consequences of the study?

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the submission process, please contact us at:
thefairjournal AT gmail DOT com