

How to Write the Perfect LCA Conference Abstract

Writing a perfect abstract is easy if you follow these directions.

- 1) Write 1-2 sentences describing the issue you are addressing.
- 2) Start a new paragraph
- 3) Write a few sentences describing your approach to the issue. Make sure that this approach is LCA related.
- 4) Start a new paragraph
- 5) Provide some results that describe the key outcomes of your work. If your analysis was measurable, provide key numerical results. A small table may be appropriate. If your results are preliminary, that is good: we are especially interested in new ideas. That is why this conference has a compressed timeline between abstract submission and the conference—we want your new ideas.
- 6) Start a new paragraph.
- 7) Tell us why your results are important. If they have policy implications, say which ones might be affected. Remember that as LCA professionals we are interested in sustainability (especially environmental sustainability). Tell us how your results help make the world a more sustainable place, or how they give us a new way to think about sustainability or sustainability analysis.
- 8) Cut and paste your abstract into the automated system.

Other things to do

- PUT your name and affiliation and the abstract title in the proper fields.
- USE spell check and grammar check.
- BE complete! You have a 350 word limit, plenty of room to explain yourself.
- PROPERLY cite works, using the citation system.
- SELECT the proper track (LCA/LCM) for your presentation. This will help the reviewers to understand your work. An LCA presentation describes new data collection or a new analytical methodology. An LCM paper describes the application of LCA thinking or LCA results or an update on LCA initiatives. A thought paper can be either LCA or LCM, but it should bring an important new idea to the LCA community. It should clearly state that it is a hypothetical or new approach piece.
- IDENTIFY the special session you are writing for, if you are intending to be in a special session.
- REMEMBER: by submitting the abstract you are explicitly and irrevocably giving ACLCA copyright to the document and to presentation material. If you do not want to have your work appear on the ACLCA website, do not submit an abstract.

Things not to do

- DO NOT provide an abstract of work that was published elsewhere.
- DO NOT focus your abstract on a commercial product developed by your organization. If a new commercial product was used or developed, focus on the issues it addresses, and the results obtained from the use of the product. If your abstract seems like a sales pitch, it will be rejected.
- DO NOT exclusively cite your own work. If you must cite your work, make sure that your abstract is building on it, not repeating it.
- DO NOT leave out your results! The absence of results is the most common complaint of reviewers, who especially like to see numbers.
- DO NOT run over the 350 word limit.

Your abstract will be reviewed by the conference technical committee through a double blind system. If you followed these directions, you will present at the next LCA Conference!