

# Six Sentence Abstracts

## Basic Structure: one sentence per point!

1. big picture problem or topic widely debated in your field.
2. gap in the literature on this topic.
3. your project filling the gap.
4. the specific material that you examine in the paper.
5. your original argument.
6. a strong concluding sentence.

## Luke's Example:

This was an abstract for an article I hoped to publish in a journal in 2016. It was accepted!

- 1) big picture problem or topic widely debated in your field: “The varied nature of Iron Age religious sites in Scandinavia has been the cause of much scholarly debate.”
- 2) gap in the literature on this topic: “Little focus, however has been paid to the general patterns of spatialisation displayed by these sites in the wider pre-Christian landscape.”
- 3) your project filling the gap: “As such, this paper seeks to examine the social spaces engendered with sacral value by pre-Christian Scandinavians.”
- 4) the specific material that you examine in the paper: “Drawing on a range of evidence, including toponymic, textual, and archaeological corpora...”
- 5) your original argument: “... a model is proposed whereby, despite the ongoing physical changes in religious sites during the Iron Age, an underlying continuity may be found in their non-physical characteristics.”
- 6) a strong concluding sentence: “It is concluded that different manifestations of liminality – geographic, temporal, dimensional – lay at the heart of late Iron Age sacral spaces.”

Tidying this up into a single paragraph, and a bit of redrafting later:

“The varied nature of Iron Age religious sites in Scandinavia has been the cause of much scholarly debate, particularly in terms of their continuity and centralisation - or otherwise. Little focus, however, has been paid to the general patterns of spatialisation displayed by these sites in the wider pre-Christian landscape. As such, this article seeks to examine the social spaces engendered with sacral value by pre-Christian Scandinavians. Drawing on a range of evidence, including toponymic, textual, and archaeological corpora, a model is proposed whereby despite the ongoing physical changes in such religious sites during the Iron Age, an underlying continuity may be found in the non-physical characteristics of their spaces. It is concluded that different manifestations of liminality – geographic, temporal, and dimensional – lay at the heart of these late Iron Age sacral spaces.”

That's 123 words, with the keywords: Iron Age, Scandinavia, Social Space, Sacral Value, Religious Site, Liminality

## Sources:

<https://theprofessorisin.com/2011/07/12/how-today-how-to-write-a-paper-abstract/>

<http://www.easterbrook.ca/steve/2010/01/how-to-write-a-scientific-abstract-in-six-easy-steps/>