



# How to Write an IMRAD Abstract

Transcultural Nursing Society (TCNS)

## Guidance for Research-Based Abstract Submissions

The IMRAD structure—**Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion**—is the standard format for scientific and nursing research abstracts. TCNS requires this structure for all **research-based** submissions to ensure clarity, rigor, and alignment with professional nursing standards.

This guide outlines what belongs in each section and how to integrate the required **Significance to Transcultural Nursing** component.

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## 1. Introduction

The Introduction should briefly establish the context and purpose of the study.

Include:

- The problem, issue, or gap in knowledge
- Why the topic matters in transcultural nursing
- The purpose, aim, or research question

**Keep it concise.** One to three sentences is typical.

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## 2. Methods

This section summarizes how the study was conducted.

Include:

- Study design (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods)
- Setting and sample
- Data collection procedures
- Instruments or tools used
- Data analysis approach
- IRB approval statement (required for TCNS research submissions)

The goal is transparency, not full methodological detail.

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## 3. Results

Present the key findings of the study.

Include:

- Primary results
- Patterns, themes, or statistical outcomes
- Essential data that supports the conclusions

**Do not include tables, figures, or citations. Do not state “results will be discussed.”** TCNS accepts only **completed research** for podium presentations.

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## 4. Discussion

Explain what the results mean.

Include:

- Interpretation of findings
- Implications for practice, education, research, administration, or policy
- How the results advance transcultural nursing knowledge

This section should connect the findings back to the purpose of the study.

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## 5. Significance to Transcultural Nursing (Required by TCNS)

Every research abstract must include a clear statement describing:

- How the study contributes to transcultural nursing
- Why the findings matter for culturally congruent care
- How the work advances equity, global health, or cultural understanding

This section is essential for TCNS reviewers and is part of the scoring rubric.

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## Formatting Requirements

- Maximum **500 words** (excluding title and keywords)
  - No references
  - Blinded (no names, institutions, or identifying information)
  - Submitted through the TCNS secure online system
  - Must align with the conference theme and objectives
  - Must follow IMRAD structure exactly
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## Tips for a Strong IMRAD Abstract

- Write clearly and concisely
  - Use active voice
  - Focus on essential information
  - Ensure each IMRAD section is distinct
  - Emphasize cultural relevance throughout
  - Avoid jargon and undefined acronyms
  - Ensure the significance to transcultural nursing is explicit
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## Sample IMRAD Abstracts (External Resources)

The following open-access resources provide clear, high-quality examples of IMRAD-structured abstracts. These samples are appropriate for authors preparing research submissions for the Transcultural Nursing Society.

### University of Michigan – Sample IMRAD Abstract

<https://lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/instructors/writing-guides/how-do-i-write-an-abstract-.html>

### University of Wisconsin–Madison Writing Center

<https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/writing-an-abstract-for-your-research-paper/>

### UNC–Chapel Hill Writing Center

<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/abstracts/>

### University of Adelaide – IMRAD Abstract Example (PDF)

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/writingcentre/sites/default/files/docs/learningguide-writinganabstract.pdf>

### Elsevier Researcher Academy – Structured Abstract Examples

<https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/writing-research/writing-abstract>

### Springer Nature – Scientific Abstract Examples

<https://authorservices.springernature.com/writing/writing-a-scientific-abstract/>

**Taylor & Francis – Abstract Examples**

<https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-your-research/writing-your-paper/how-to-write-an-abstract/>

**BMJ Evidence-Based Nursing – Structured Abstract Example**

<https://ebn.bmj.com/content/ebnurs/21/2/50.full.pdf>

**San José State University – Sample Abstracts (PDF)**

<https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/Abstracts.pdf>

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## Questions?

Contact: [staff@tcns.org](mailto:staff@tcns.org)