Preparing a Strong Abstract

A strong abstract clearly communicates why a topic matters, what participants will learn, and how the information may contribute to nursing practice.

Abstracts may describe completed work, ongoing projects, proposed initiatives, or educational presentations.

The examples below demonstrate how a nursing leadership presentation addressing workplace communication might meet the submission requirements.

1. Gap or Need — 25 Words Maximum

Describe the specific nursing practice problem, educational need, emerging concern, or opportunity your presentation will address.

Example:
Nursing supervisors often face challenging workplace conversations but may lack structured strategies to address unprofessional behaviors promptly and effectively.

Helpful Tip: Be specific. Instead of saying that communication is important, identify the particular communication challenge or learning need.

2. Measurable Learner Outcome — 25 Words Maximum

Explain what participants should be able to do after attending your presentation.

Example:
Participants will identify two evidence-informed strategies for addressing unprofessional workplace behavior through timely, respectful communication.

Helpful Tip: Use measurable action verbs such as identify, describe, compare, apply, or develop.

3. Content Summary — 200 Words Maximum

Summarize the information, evidence, methods, strategies, or findings you plan to present.

Consider including the background or context of the issue, relevant evidence or professional guidance, the intervention or approach, and important findings, recommendations, or lessons learned.

Example:
This presentation will examine barriers to addressing unprofessional behavior in nursing and review evidence-informed approaches to difficult conversations. Participants will explore how to recognize concerns, start a timely discussion, and communicate expectations while maintaining professional relationships.

Helpful Tip: Focus on what you will teach or share rather than simply describing why the topic is important.

4. Results or Anticipated Impact — 50 Words Maximum

For completed projects, summarize actual findings or outcomes. For ongoing or proposed projects and educational sessions, describe anticipated impact or potential application to nursing practice.

Example:
Participants may apply these communication strategies to strengthen accountability, support respectful workplace relationships, and address concerns before they escalate.

Helpful Tip: You do not need to have completed a research study or demonstrated measurable improvement to submit a valuable educational proposal.

5. Selected References — 2–5 References

Provide 2–5 selected references that support the relevance, evidence base, or educational content of your proposed presentation. Prefer current evidence published within the past five years, although foundational literature and professional standards may also be appropriate.

Helpful Tip: Select the references most relevant to your proposed content. A complete bibliography is not required.

How Abstracts Will Be Evaluated

All abstracts will undergo independent, blinded review using the same criteria for podium and poster submissions.

Each of the seven criteria is scored on a five-point scale, for a maximum total of 35 points.

Reviewers will consider:

1. **Alignment with ANA-Ohio's Mission and Values:** Relevance to the organization's mission and professional values.
2. **Current or Emerging Nursing Priority:** Importance and timeliness of the topic.
3. **Gap and Measurable Learner Outcome:** Identification of a specific need and an appropriate, measurable outcome.
4. **Content Clarity and Organization:** Clear, logical presentation of the proposed material.
5. **Current Supporting Evidence:** Use of relevant evidence to support the proposed content.
6. **Applicability to the Intended Nursing Audience:** Potential for participants to apply the information to nursing practice or professional development.
7. **Writing Quality:** Clear, concise, professional communication.

Submissions must be educational in nature and free from commercial product promotion. Compliance with this requirement is evaluated separately from the scored criteria.

Before You Submit

Please confirm that your abstract:

- Clearly identifies a nursing practice or educational need.
- Describes a measurable learner outcome.
- Provides sufficient detail to understand the proposed content.
- Includes relevant supporting evidence.
- Meets the word limits for each section.
- Does not include presenter names, affiliations, or other identifying details on the blinded abstract review page.
- Includes your presentation format preference and contact information on the presenter information page.

Submit your completed abstract by Friday, January 15, 2027.

Submission email: events@ana-ohio.org