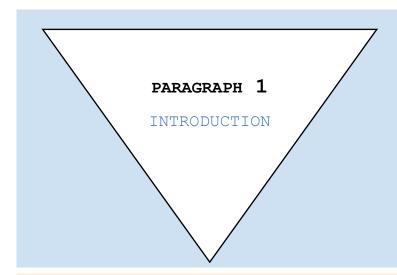# shih's
LSA ABSTRACT ALGORITHM

There are many ways to organize an LSA abstract. This is just one plug-and-play algorithm that's worked successfully for me. See other example approaches and model abstracts on the LSA website: https://www.linguisticsociety.org/resource/model-abstracts.

PARAGRAPH 1

INTRODUCTION

Quick introduction of the phenomenon.

Clear statement of research problem or question.
Think: what is the urgent knowledge gap that your abstract addresses?

Succinct description of study and main result.

PARAGRAPH 2

SPECIFIC BACKGROUND
DATA & METHODOLOGY

Specifics necessary to understand and contextualize your study and results:

Additional Background
If there is any relevant literature or issues that need to be further identified in order to contextualize your study, mention it here.
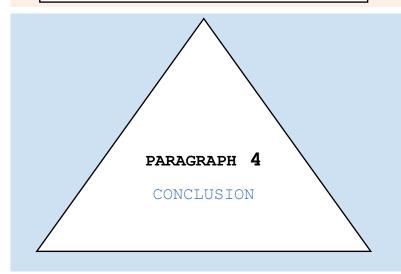
Data & Methodology
Set up what you did here.

Usually it's possible to do both things at once. Whatever background is needed should be integrated into serving *your* story, not regurgitating old info.

PARAGRAPH 3

RESULTS

Clear and concrete description of results.

Interpret the results in light of the problem presented at the beginning of the abstract.

PARAGRAPH 4

CONCLUSION

Succinct (1-sentence) recap of study and results.

Quick consideration of larger theoretical implications and extensions of research.
Think: why should the general linguist care? Now that you've addressed this knowledge gap, what do we gain?

SOME GENERAL TIPS

- Space is tight. Readers are tired. Get to your point as soon as possible, and stay on your point as much as possible.
- Find the balance between impactful and overselling. You need the punch to get the reader's attention, but reviewers are great at sniffing out bullshit.
- LSA reviewers tend to respond well to well-delineated problems, addressed with clear empirical data. In my experience, convoluted and subtle theoretical arguments don't do as well in 500 words as "here's the problem, here's a study, here's the result." If you have highly theory-oriented work, frame it carefully.
- Avoid overly specialized terminology. Define your terms, if needed.