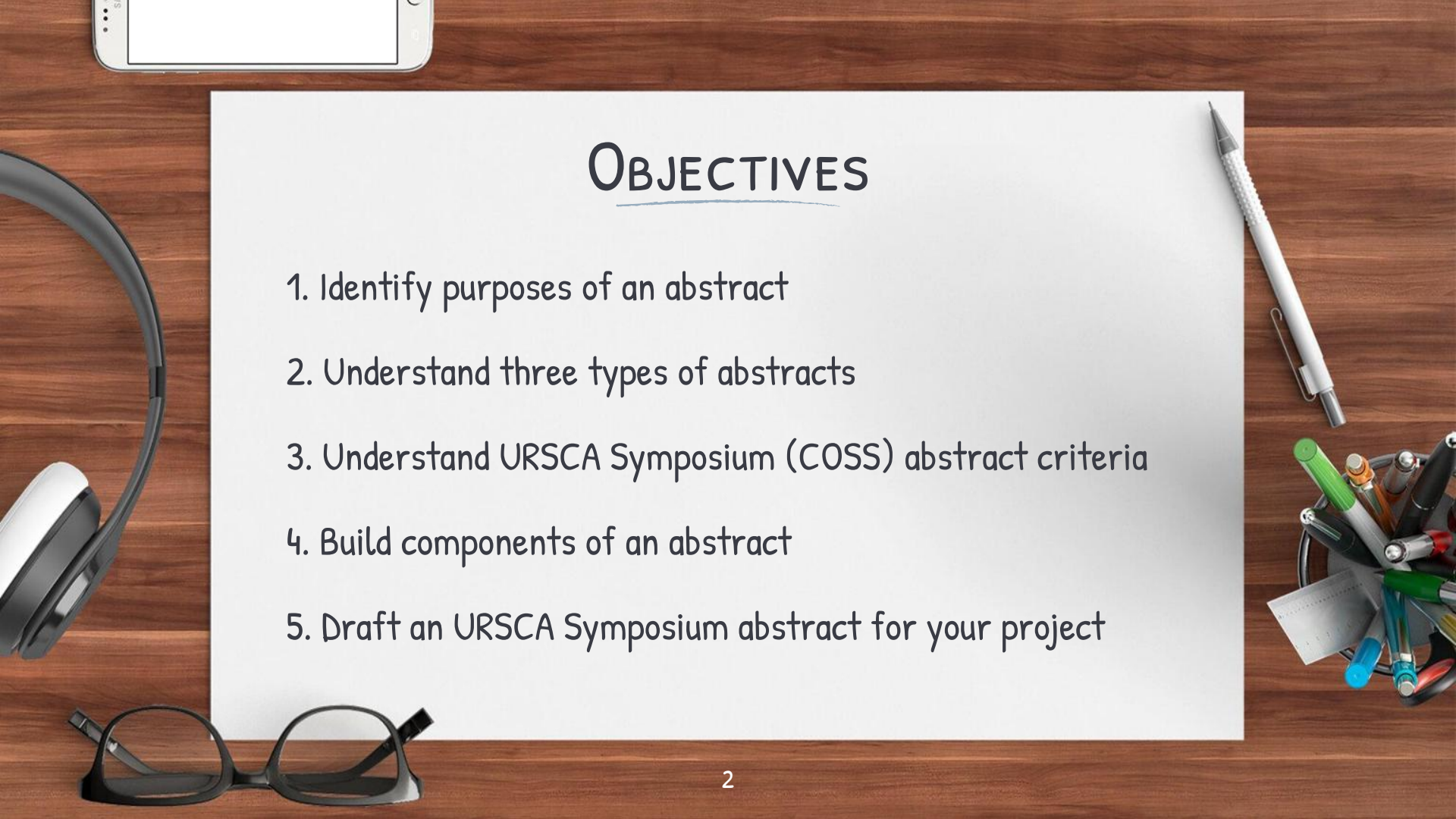


WRITING ABSTRACTS

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OBJECTIVES

1. Identify purposes of an abstract
2. Understand three types of abstracts
3. Understand URSCA Symposium (COSS) abstract criteria
4. Build components of an abstract
5. Draft an URSCA Symposium abstract for your project

1. PURPOSES OF AN ABSTRACT

Having your work selected:

- > Presenting at a conference
- > Writing a paper or book
- > Submitting a grant
- > Gaining an audience

Having your work indexed:

- > Keywords
- > Searchable
- > Library catalogs
- > Online databases

2. TYPES OF ABSTRACTS

Descriptive

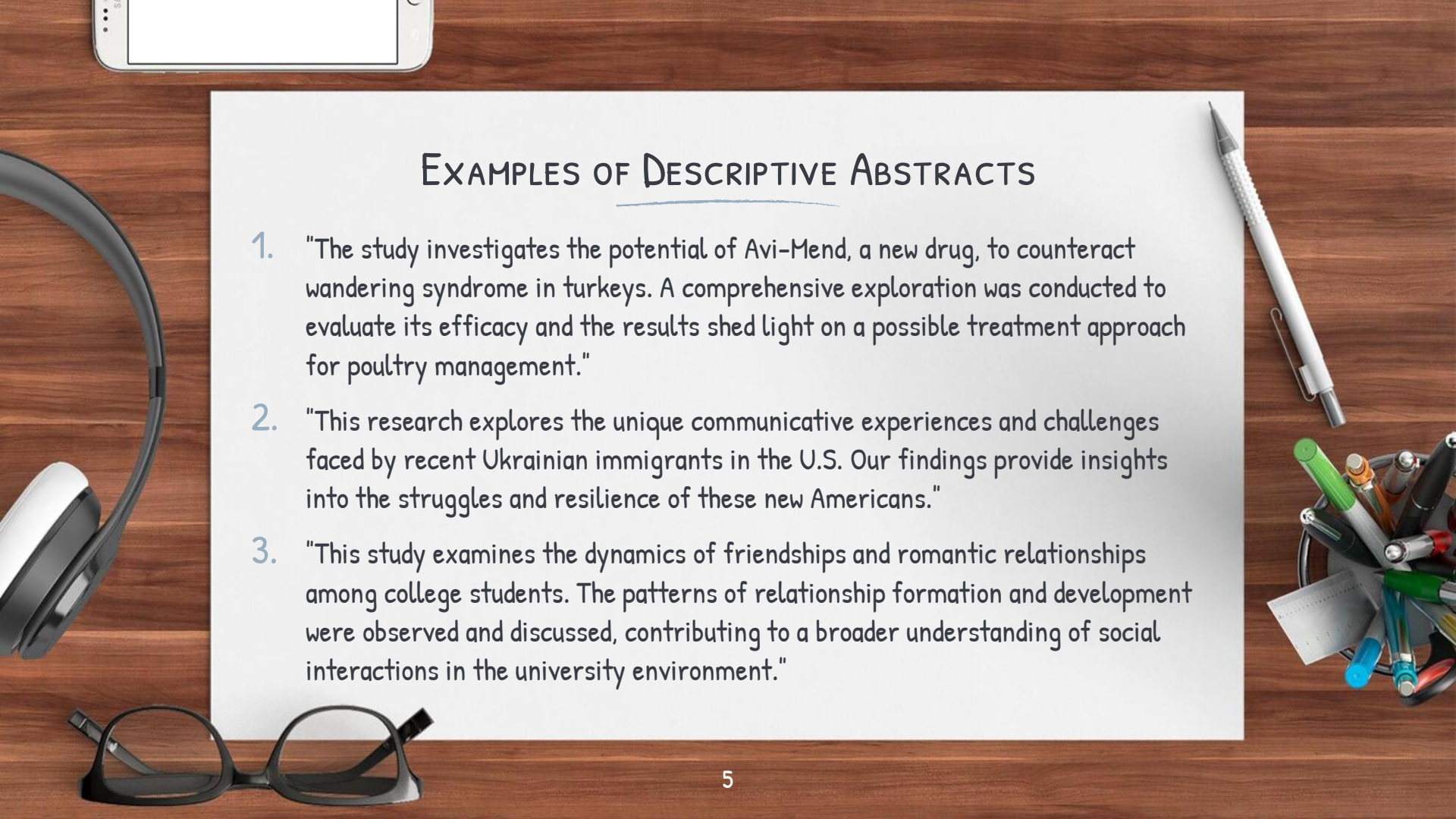
- › < 100 words
- › Include keywords
- › May include:
framework/scope,
methods/approach
- › Do not include: results,
conclusions, evaluation

Informative

- › ~150 - 300 words
- › Include keywords
- › May include:
framework/scope,
methods/approach,
results, conclusions,
summary of main
points

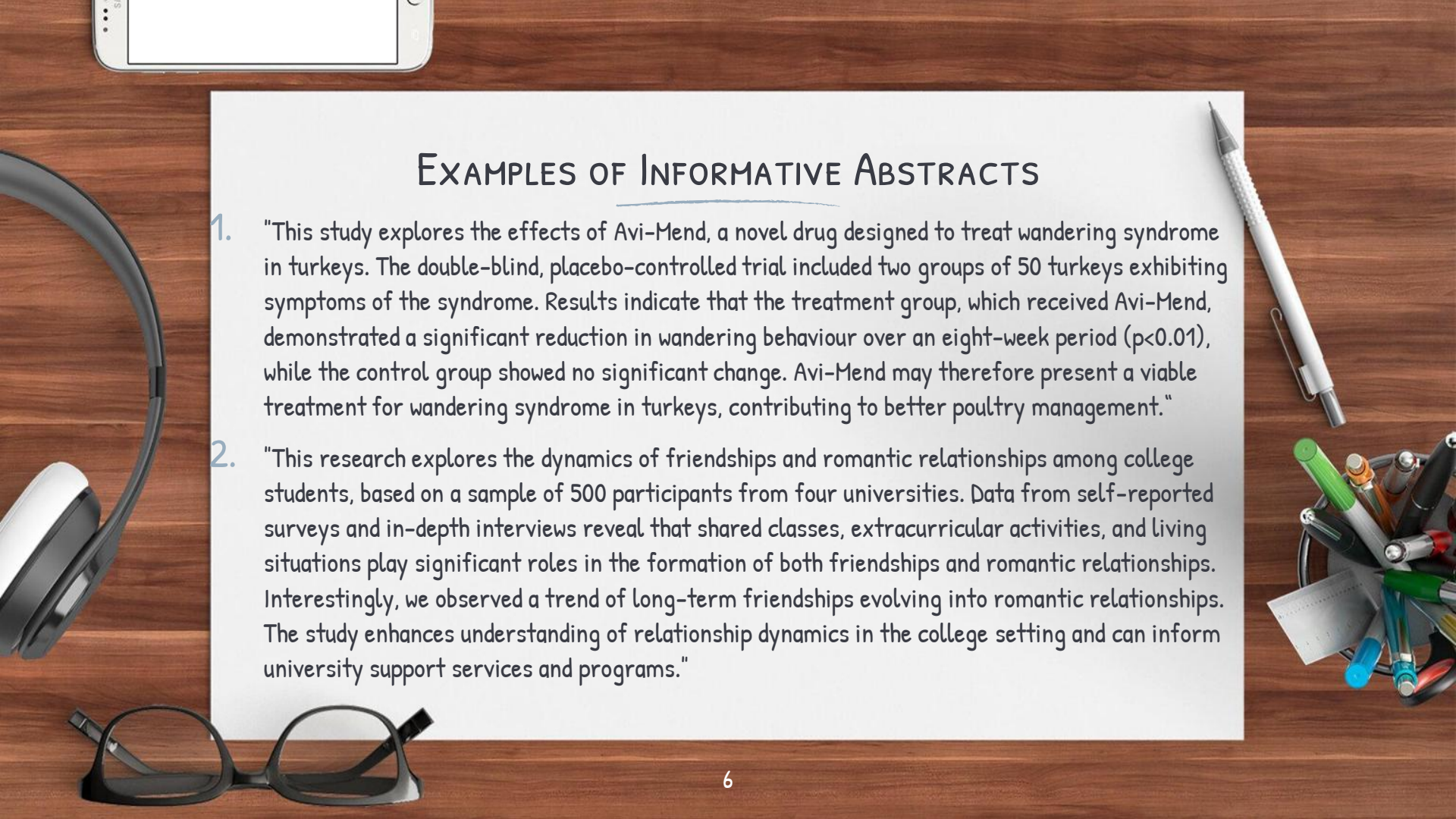
Structured

- › ~150 - 300 words
- › Include keywords
- › Sections with headers:
background, objective,
methods, results, and
conclusions
- › Often seen in
health/clinical
research



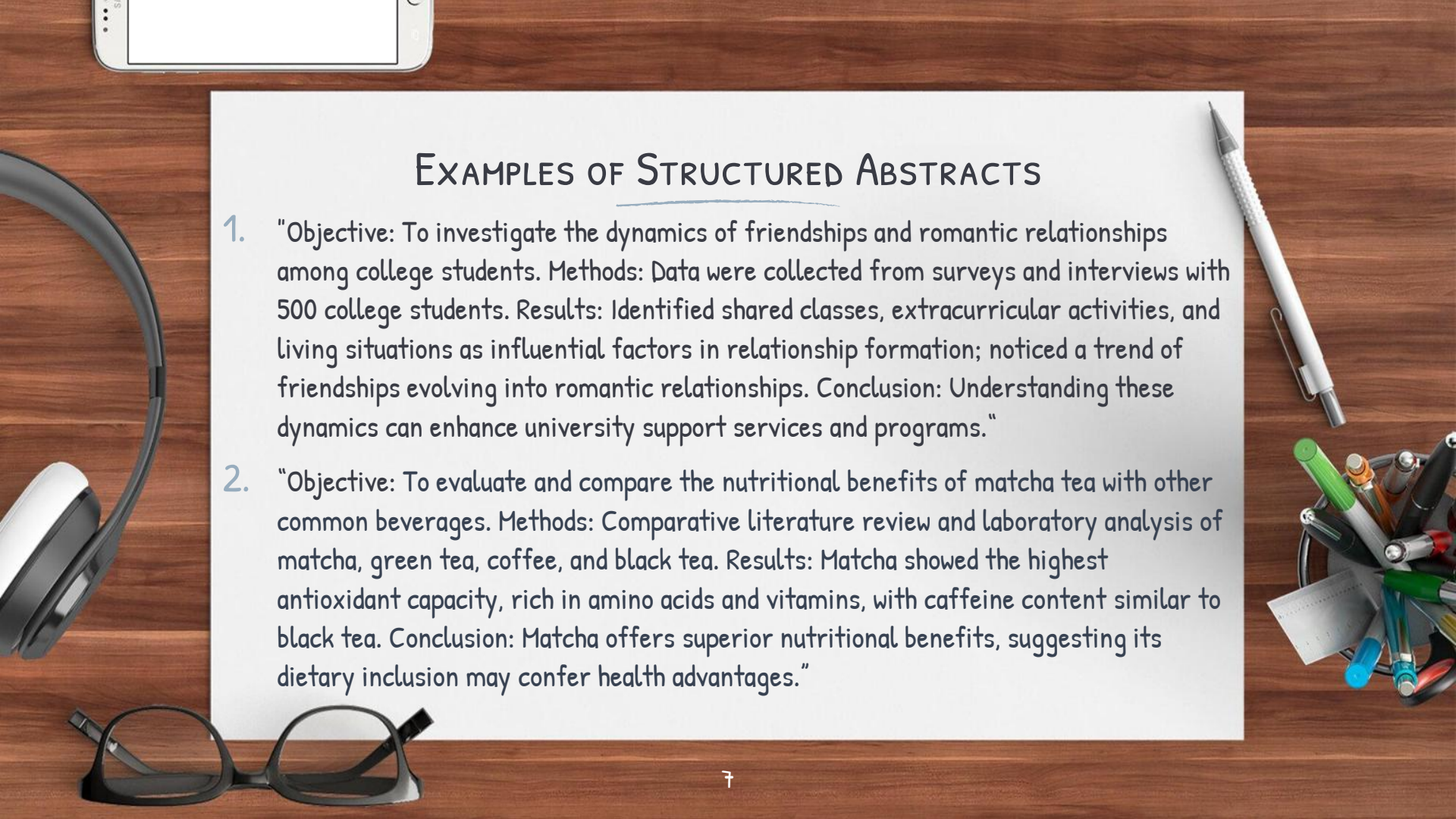
EXAMPLES OF DESCRIPTIVE ABSTRACTS

1. "The study investigates the potential of Avi-Mend, a new drug, to counteract wandering syndrome in turkeys. A comprehensive exploration was conducted to evaluate its efficacy and the results shed light on a possible treatment approach for poultry management."
2. "This research explores the unique communicative experiences and challenges faced by recent Ukrainian immigrants in the U.S. Our findings provide insights into the struggles and resilience of these new Americans."
3. "This study examines the dynamics of friendships and romantic relationships among college students. The patterns of relationship formation and development were observed and discussed, contributing to a broader understanding of social interactions in the university environment."



EXAMPLES OF INFORMATIVE ABSTRACTS

1. "This study explores the effects of Avi-Mend, a novel drug designed to treat wandering syndrome in turkeys. The double-blind, placebo-controlled trial included two groups of 50 turkeys exhibiting symptoms of the syndrome. Results indicate that the treatment group, which received Avi-Mend, demonstrated a significant reduction in wandering behaviour over an eight-week period ($p < 0.01$), while the control group showed no significant change. Avi-Mend may therefore present a viable treatment for wandering syndrome in turkeys, contributing to better poultry management."
2. "This research explores the dynamics of friendships and romantic relationships among college students, based on a sample of 500 participants from four universities. Data from self-reported surveys and in-depth interviews reveal that shared classes, extracurricular activities, and living situations play significant roles in the formation of both friendships and romantic relationships. Interestingly, we observed a trend of long-term friendships evolving into romantic relationships. The study enhances understanding of relationship dynamics in the college setting and can inform university support services and programs."



EXAMPLES OF STRUCTURED ABSTRACTS

1. "Objective: To investigate the dynamics of friendships and romantic relationships among college students. Methods: Data were collected from surveys and interviews with 500 college students. Results: Identified shared classes, extracurricular activities, and living situations as influential factors in relationship formation; noticed a trend of friendships evolving into romantic relationships. Conclusion: Understanding these dynamics can enhance university support services and programs."
2. "Objective: To evaluate and compare the nutritional benefits of matcha tea with other common beverages. Methods: Comparative literature review and laboratory analysis of matcha, green tea, coffee, and black tea. Results: Matcha showed the highest antioxidant capacity, rich in amino acids and vitamins, with caffeine content similar to black tea. Conclusion: Matcha offers superior nutritional benefits, suggesting its dietary inclusion may confer health advantages."

DISCIPLINARY COMPARISON OF ABSTRACT FEATURES

Humanities

- › Indexing keywords
- › Original document
- › Thesis
- › Background
- › Approach
- › Conclusion
- › Expectations

Sciences

- › Indexing keywords
- › Original document
- › Hypothesis
- › Scope/framework/purpose
- › Methods
- › Results
- › Implications/Expectations

UNIVERSAL TIPS FOR WRITING ABSTRACTS

Clear

Use specific keywords found in the larger work.

Provide relevant, compelling, and complete information from the larger work.

Concise

Say much with few words.

Re-read and revise to eliminate unnecessary words.

Follow word limit guidelines.

Consistent

Use the same writing style as the larger work.

Write the abstract as an original work but make it "fit" with the larger work it summarizes or describes.

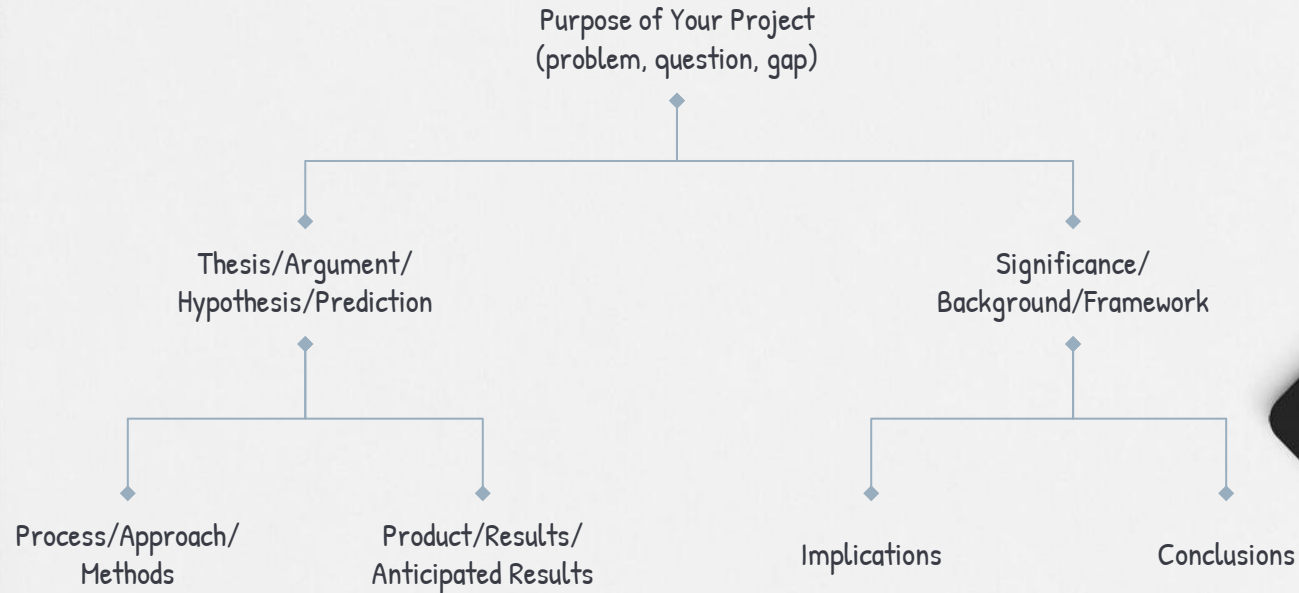
3. URSCA SYMPOSIUM ABSTRACT CRITERIA

Include the following in 250 words or less:

- › significance/framework/problem
- › thesis/argument/hypothesis
- › process/approach/methods
- › (anticipated) results/product
- › special formatting and symbols



4. BUILDING YOUR COSS ABSTRACT



4. BUILD YOUR ABSTRACT: WRITE 1-2 SENTENCES FOR EACH COMPONENT

Significance/Framework/ Problem/Gap in Knowledge

Briefly establish what is already known about your topic and why it matters. Identify the specific problem, question, issue, or gap your project addresses.

Product/Results/ Anticipated Results

If your project is complete, give a preview of the most important results or product. If your project is in progress, give a statement explaining your anticipated results.

Thesis/Argument/ Hypothesis

State what you set out to determine, investigate, create, or understand through your project. Include your central argument or hypothesis when appropriate.

Conclusions/ Implications

Help the reader answer the question: "So what?". Explain your findings or product and why they matter. Explain who or what benefits from the outcomes of your project, and/or next steps you or others could take.

Methods/Approach/ Process

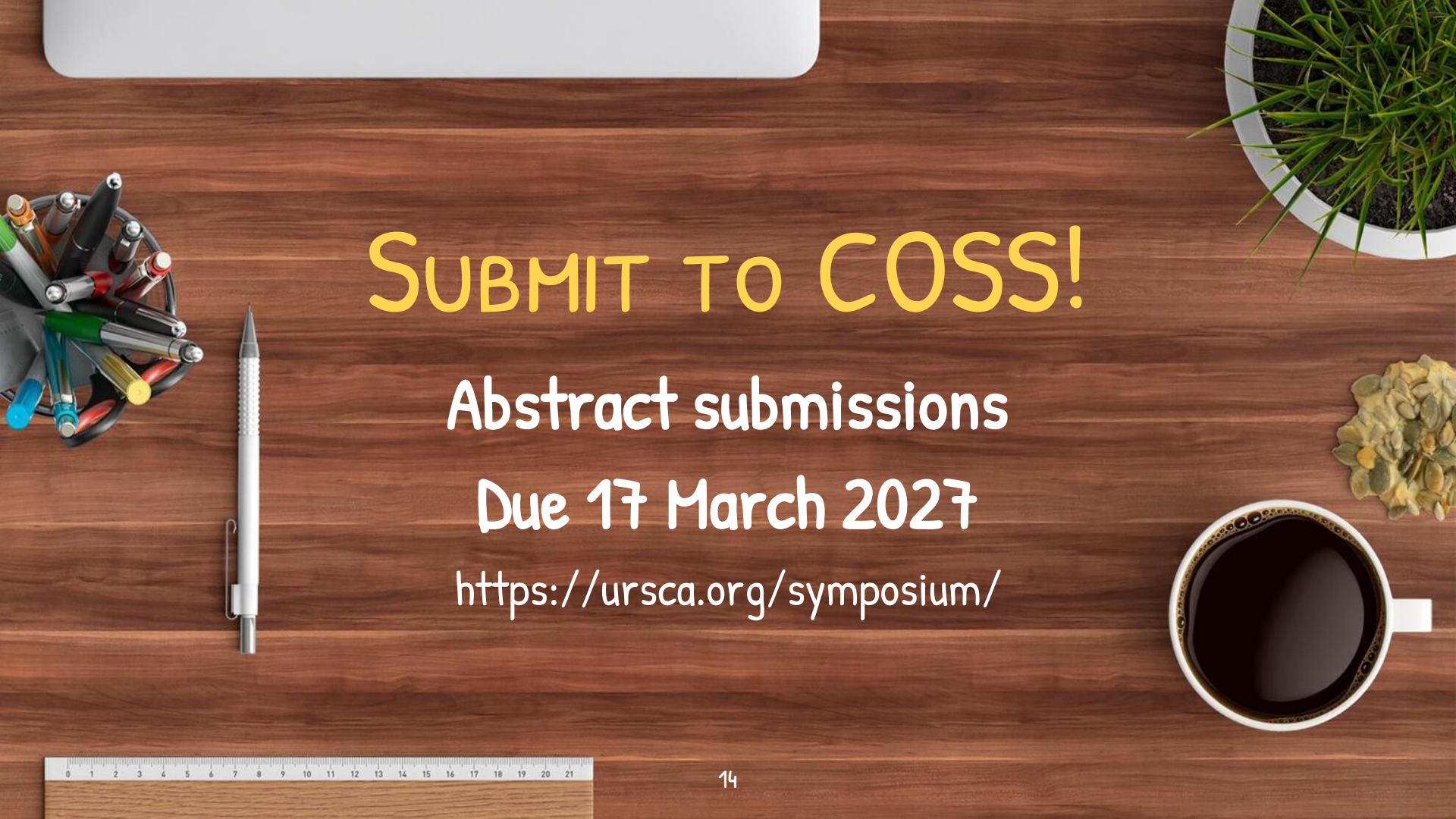
Briefly explain what you did and how you did it. Include design, materials, participants, sources, analytical approach, or creative process as appropriate.

SUBMIT TO COSS

- PRESENTATION
FORMAT
- CO-AUTHORS
- MENTOR(S)
- MEET THE DEADLINE

5. PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER:

- > CONNECT YOUR SENTENCES
- > RE-ORGANIZE SENTENCES TO
MAKE ONE CONCISE STORY
- > TRIM
- > REVISE
- > REVIEW
- > REVISE
- > RE-CHECK CRITERIA
- > REVIEW
- > SUBMIT!

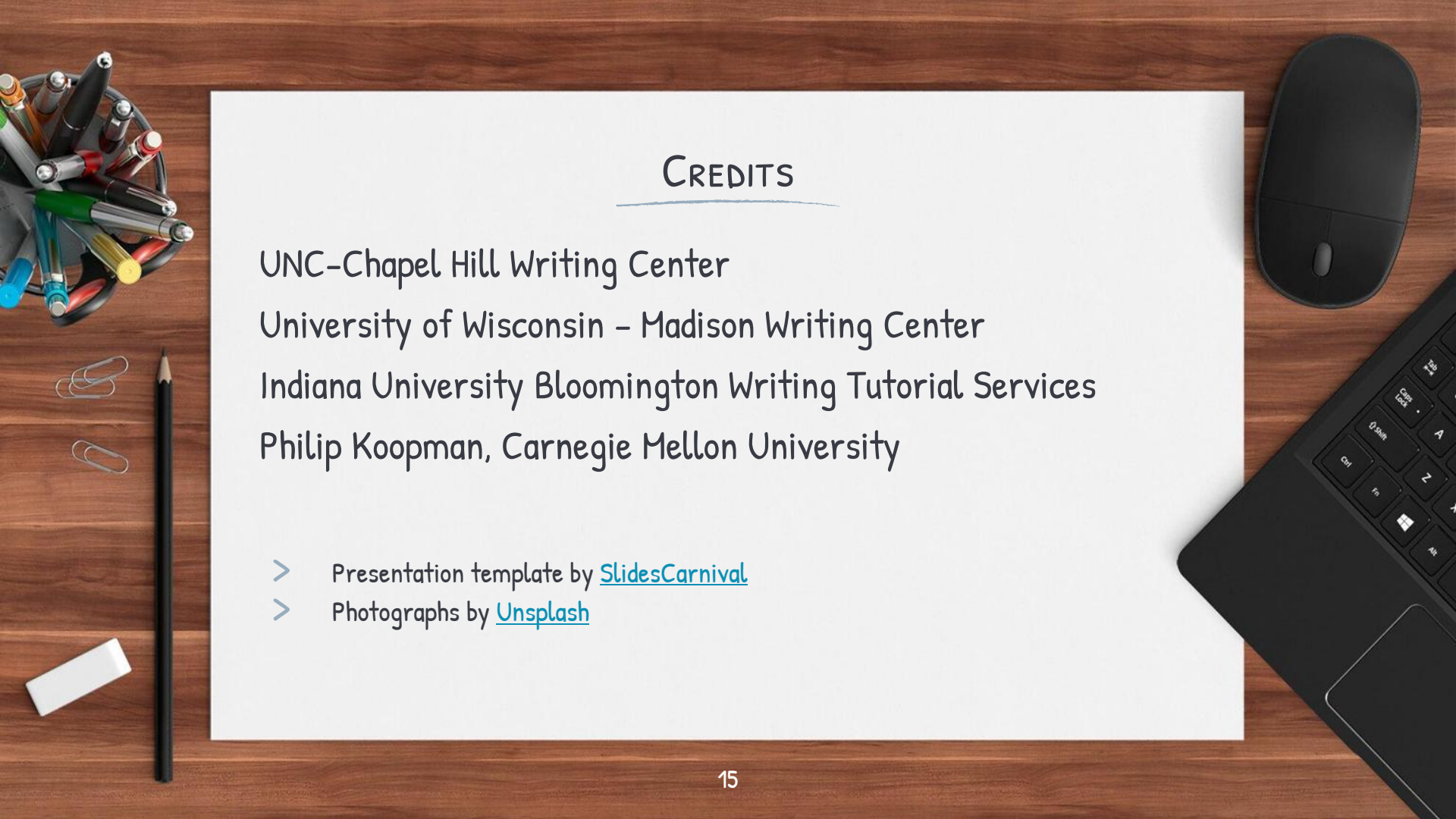


SUBMIT TO COSS!

Abstract submissions

Due 17 March 2027

<https://ursca.org/symposium/>



CREDITS

UNC-Chapel Hill Writing Center

University of Wisconsin – Madison Writing Center

Indiana University Bloomington Writing Tutorial Services

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