

Visual Abstracts Tips and Tricks

What is a Visual Abstract?

A visual summary that highlights the key points of a scholarly journal article. Contains similar information found in the article's abstract, presented in an easily-shared, visually interesting format.

Why use one?

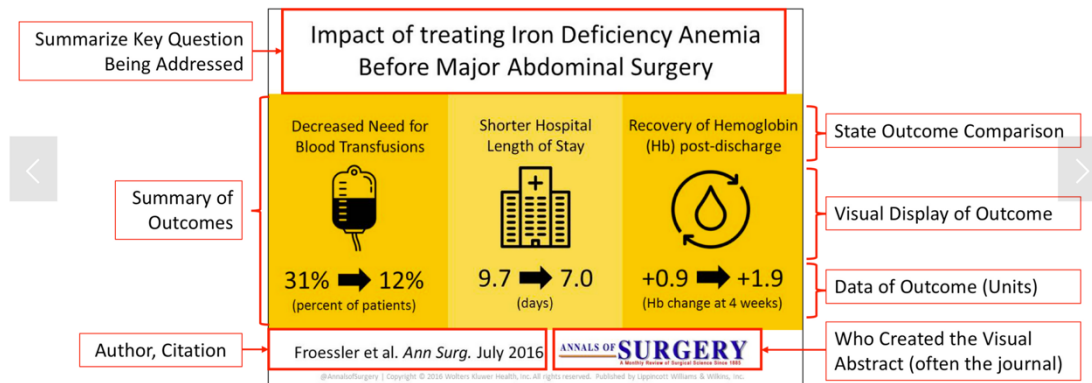
- Quickly communicates scientific information
- Shareable on social media, which can broaden the author's audience

Components of the visual abstract.

Image credit: Ibrahim, A.M. Components of an effective visual Abstract [Online image].

Retrieved from <https://www.surgeryredesign.com/>

COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE VISUAL ABSTRACT



Programs to help you create and design a visual abstract

- Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop) – available for BU users (see [IT website](#))
- Power Point – available for download for BU users (see [IT website](#))
- Google Slides - free
- Canva – free

Design tips and useful tools

- **Color**
 - Best practices for using color is to create a palette of five or fewer colors. If you need more options, vary the shades, tone and tints of your colors
 - **Tools for helping to create a color palette**
 - [Paletti](#) - a Google Slides add on that generates palettes for you.
 - [Colors.co](#) – a palette generator
- **Typography**
 - Best practice is to select 2-3 complementary type families

- Vary style by bolding, italicizing and changing text size
- Make sure it's readable!
- **Tool for choosing complementary font pairs**
 - [FontPair](#)
- **Icons/images**
 - Keep images simple and clear, with a consistent style across images used in the visual abstract
 - Tools for finding free images
 - [Insert icons for Slides](#) – Google Slides add on
 - [Unsplash](#)
 - [Pexels](#)
- **BU Logos**
 - Download BU logos [here](#)
- **How to share on social media**
 - See this [website](#) for tips about resizing visual abstracts for optimal sharing on social media platforms
- **Resources with more information about designing visual abstracts**
 - [BU Library tutorial on visual abstracts](#)
 - [Dr. Andrew Ibrahim's guide to visual abstracts](#)