








# Self paced multimedia resources to create visual abstracts

Dr Amanda Charlton, updated 2026

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## Quick start template

<https://tinyurl.com/3u5bkkz2>

Title 15 words maximum including 1-4 key words



Main point 1 in  
15 words or less



Main point 2 in  
15 words or less



Main point 3 in  
15 words or less

Visual abstract created by your name and date  
Reference and hyperlink to DOI

- On a piece of paper, simplify your written abstract into 3 main points. Think of representative metaphors or icons.
- In Powerpoint drag rectangles to form panels. Change fill to a light colour. Overlay text boxes. Use inbuilt icons. Insert>Icons



# Videos – how to make a visual abstract – follow along



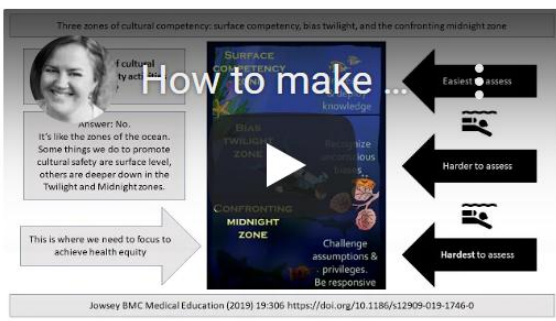
30 min -Andrew Ibrahim, the founder of visual abstracts good overview with lots of examples

<https://youtu.be/CzSvC6ZtS1I>



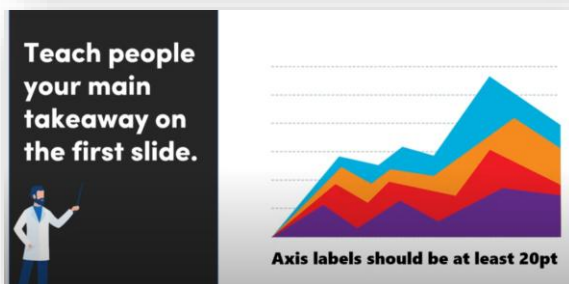
6 min - Tanisha Jowsey constructs a visual abstract in Powerpoint using the inbuilt icon library and smart art for graphics

<https://youtu.be/EO1BZanPR-c>



4 min -Tanisha Jowsey constructs a visual abstract in Powerpoint using CCO Photos

[https://youtu.be/BSqd3NUg\\_XI](https://youtu.be/BSqd3NUg_XI)

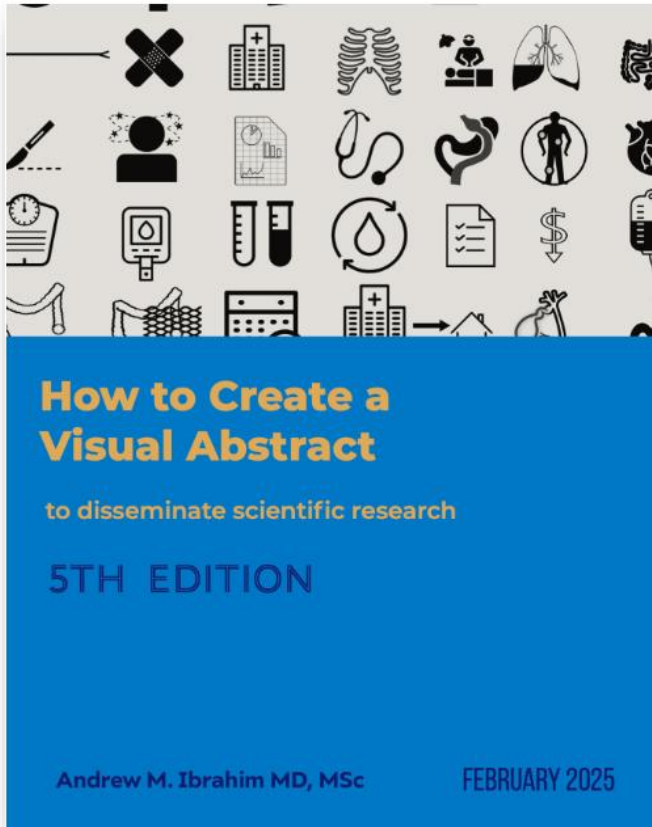


6 min –Mike Morrison constructs a 3 page rolling GIF twitter poster in Powerpoint

[https://youtu.be/fQDL8r3r\\_d4](https://youtu.be/fQDL8r3r_d4)



## Read – introductory guides and articles



**Comprehensive and definitive** open source guide by Andrew Ibrahim , the original creator of visual abstracts. He is a surgeon and architect. Download the pdf. Embedded templates and video. <https://www.surgeryredesign.com/resources>

**Table 1. Guidelines to Standardize Visual Abstracts for Scientific Research**

Guideline	Rationale
Clearly state the question or purpose of the study.	Give context for study
Describe the research design (e.g., randomized trial, retrospective review, survey).	Make quality of evidence clear
Include the primary outcome of the study.	Minimize reporting bias
Report, when appropriate, <i>P</i> -values or others measures of significance.	Improve reader ability to interpret findings
Label citation of the article in image itself, and include link to the full article when posted.	Make source of data easy to locate
Use language consistent with the terms and definitions used in the article.	Minimize “editorializing” and bias
Only use images for which the authors or journal have rights.	Avoid violating copyright laws.
External review (by someone who did not create the visual abstract) for accuracy and assessment of bias.	Ensure credibility and identify unconscious bias.

### Quality guidelines

Ibrahim AM. Seeing is Believing: Using Visual Abstracts to Disseminate Scientific Research. American Journal of Gastroenterology. 2018 Apr;113(4):459–61.

[Seeing is Believing: Using Visual Abstracts to Disseminate S... : Official journal of the American College of Gastroenterology | ACG \(lww.com\)](https://www.gastrojournal.org/article/S0014-3809(18)30000-0)

# Interactive-Online course



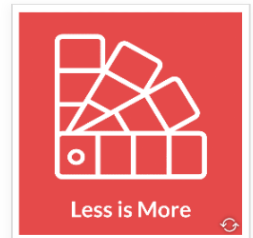
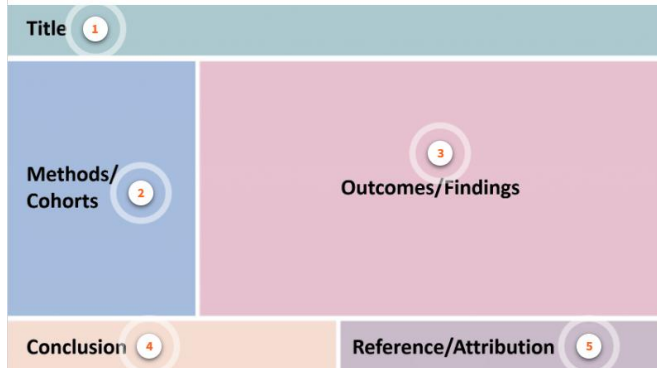
## Creating a visual abstract: **My process**

**Michelle Lim** MBChB, MRCP  
@whatsthegr  
Nephrologist  
Course Director: Visual Abstract rotation, Nephrology Social Media Collective

**An integrated multimedia interactive short course on creating effective visual abstracts.** Lim M. How to create effective visual abstracts.

Durham, North Carolina; 2021

<https://people.duke.edu/~ms203/#/>



## Listen – Podcasts on visual abstracts



11 min section of [Podcast interview](#) with Dr Andrew Ibramim, creator of the visual abstract. Timepoints 13:15 to 24:12min

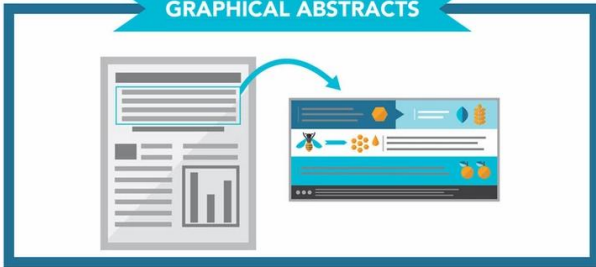


Interview with Chelsea Harris, surgical resident, took over from Andrew Ibrahim making the VA for Annals of Surgery, she has an equity and diversity focus.

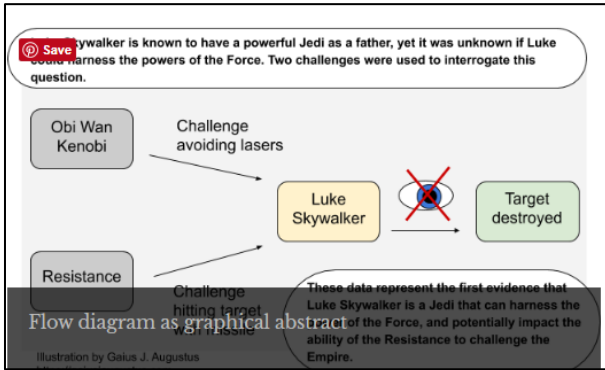
[https://open.spotify.com/episode/250Y1c22YfDMCy2HjsEm4?si=ws9Egpo0S-WbOEx2GjYlvA&dl\\_branch=1](https://open.spotify.com/episode/250Y1c22YfDMCy2HjsEm4?si=ws9Egpo0S-WbOEx2GjYlvA&dl_branch=1)



## GRAPHICAL ABSTRACTS



Excellent illustrated website guide by Animate your Science on construction of a graphical abstract <https://www.animateyour.science/post/graphical-abstracts-how-to-master-the-latest-trend-in-publishing>



Blog on how to make, 3 different types of graphical output, uses Star Wars as the story to abstract. More about how to extract and group information. <https://www.annaclemens.com/blog/make-graphical-abstract-paper>

"However, examples of **substandard visualizations are abundant**—which could potentially lead to misinterpretation [2]. Learning by doing without any expert intervention could lead to **perpetuation of poor design** practices, and peers and advisors often cannot issue adequate feedback."



A warning about poor visualisation. Article on science visualisation in broader context, current limitations, useful links to more resources. Nayak S, Iwasa JH. Preparing scientists for a visual future. EMBO reports. 2019 Nov 5;20(11):e49347. [Open access link](#).



# Look – galleries of visual abstracts –to inspire and critique



**Target prostate biopsies: How best to report in structured format?**

TRUS systematic biopsy  
ICCR/CAP structured report  
➤ Score each core

➔ Addition of MRI target biopsy needs additional reporting elements  
Comprehensive structured report  
➤ Score each core AND

**Phyllodes tumours: time for standardisation**

No standardised reporting protocol exists for phyllodes tumors.

550 phyllodes tumor reports reviewed from 11 institutions.

85% of reports lacked one or more elements needed to determine grade.

More than 50% of reports lacked....

- degree of stromal cellularity
- degree of stromal atypia
- presence of stromal overgrowth
- tumour border description

A standardised report for phyllodes tumors should be developed and used.

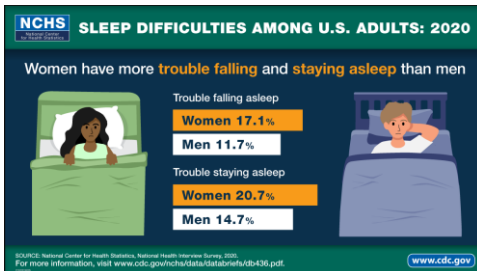
Rosenberger, Laura N., Lisa M. Quattara, Samantha M. Thomas, Scott W. Norrday, Tina J. Hatten, Karolina K. Ludwig, Lisa C. Jacoby, et al. Standard Reporting of Histopathologic Details in a Multi-Institutional Academic Center of Phyllodes Tumors: Time for Standardization? *Annals of Surgical Oncology* 28, no. 12 (8 November 2020): 7498-9. <https://doi.org/10.1245/s12252-020-08127-7>

Visual abstract created by Amanda Charlton 13.5.22

RCPA Structured Pathology Reporting Cancer quarterly newsletters.

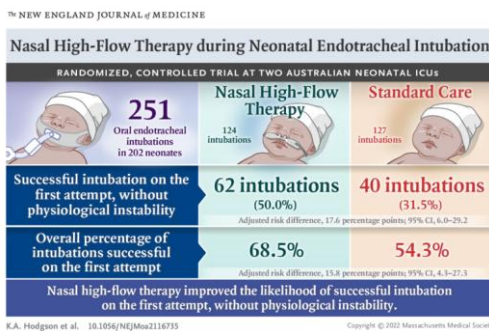
[Visual Abstracts 2022 onwards](#)

Open each VA as a pdf to get live links and a full page view.



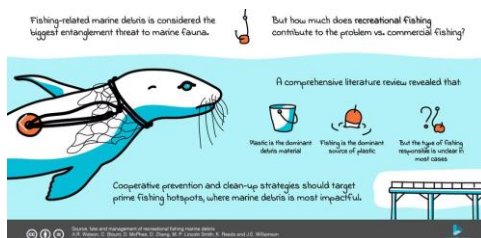
CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/visuals.htm>



NEJM

<https://www.nejm.org/browse/nejm-media-type/visual-abstract>



Animate your Science

<https://www.animateyour.science/graphical-abstracts>

Search for the Journal of interest + visual abstract



# Icons – where to find copywrite free



PowerPoint  
365

[Link](#)  
Insert/icons

**Easiest starting point.**  
No attribution  
required



Health Icons

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