

# How to Write an Abstract

## THE ROMANS—SECTION

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## Jennifer Trimble's 6-Step Abstract Recipe

1. Situate the paper in the scholarly landscape.
2. Within that bigger landscape, what is the problem or opportunity (new approach, new theory, new evidence, etc.) I see, or what people have missed or failed to asked.
3. What am I going to do about it, how do I answer the question or fill the gap?
4. How will I do it, what is my method?
5. What are my results? If I don't have any results yet: What are my anticipated results, and what would this mean?
6. The so-what-question: why does this matter, how does this change things, what are the implications. Assuming I am right about everything, what does it mean?

## Jennifer Trimble's 6-Step Abstract Recipe. Example

1. From the second half of the first century AD onwards, several funerary monuments depicting women as naked Venuses are attested, mostly in the context of manumitted slaves. In the last three decades, scholarly attitudes towards such statues and reliefs have evolved from ridicule and snobbery to a genuine interest into the social context in which they are embedded, and several studies (e.g. by Wrede, D'Ambra, Stewart) have discussed the virtues such monuments depict.
2. However, there have not yet been attempts to link them explicitly to Augustus' politics of cultural restoration.
3. In this paper, I explore the possibilities of interpreting such monuments not in opposition to the *castitas* and *pudicitia* of the ideal *stola*-wearing Augustan woman, but as an expression of *fecunditas* and ideal femininity.
4. This is accomplished by comparing and contrasting several examples of such Venus monuments and their relationship to Augustus' moral politics.
5. I demonstrate how freedpeople were most likely to embrace these newly affirmed values, how the liminal space of tombs was the best place to express these ideas, and how such monuments shaped social realities.
6. Thus, I discuss the emergence of such depictions as a delayed manifestation of Augustan politics as well as an example of the profound sociocultural changes brought about by the first emperor.

# Group Abstract Composition

## **Were issues important in republican Roman politics and elections?**

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# Conclusion