
ABSTRACTS

An abstract is a short, summarized statement of a larger work. It describes to the reader the key elements and is designed to entice potential readers into perusing the full paper. The idea is to be as clear and complete as possible in the shortest amount of space.

Writing an Abstract:

An abstract is usually between a paragraph and a half-page in length. When condensing your entire paper into a short abstract, it is helpful to go through your paper and highlight the topic sentences. These sentences should be the central ideas of your paper. When you have done this, revise the sentences and unify them into one paragraph. Your abstract should answer the following questions:

- Reason for Writing: What is the importance of the research? Why would a reader be interested in the larger work?
- Problem: What problem does this work attempt to solve? What is the main argument/thesis/claim?
- Methodology: What specific models or approaches were used in the research? Or, in non-scientific abstracts, what types of evidence are employed?
- Results: What data was collected during the research process? Or, in non-scientific abstracts, what conclusions can be reached from the evidence?
- Implications: What changes should be implemented as a result of the research? How does this work add to the body of knowledge on the topic?

Additional Tips:

Below are some additional guidelines to help you write the best abstract possible:

- Whenever possible, write your actual paper before writing your abstract
- Write the most important information first
- Use key words and phrases to add focus
- Use the most concise and powerful language available to you
- Be quick but persuasive

Remember that your abstract is your opportunity to draw readers in. Most readers will decide whether or not an article is worth reading based on whether or not the abstract is convincing. Consequently, it's important for your abstract to be refined and effective.