

Abstract

抽象



What is an Abstract ?

- An **abstract** is a brief summary of a research article, thesis, review, conference proceeding, or any in-depth analysis of a particular subject and is often used to help the reader quickly ascertain the paper's purpose. When used, an abstract always appears at the beginning of a manuscript or typescript, acting as the point-of-entry for any given academic paper or patent application.


Structure your abstract efficiently and logically

- 1) introduce the topic
- 2) indicate a gap in the current literature
- 3) state their methods
- 4) mention the study results
- 5) offer a brief conclusion



The word 'abstract', with its roots in Latin, means a condensed form of a long piece of writing.


Abstracting and indexing services for various academic disciplines are aimed at compiling a body of literature for that particular subject.




The terms précis or synopsis are used in some publications to refer to the same thing that other publications might call an "abstract".

Structure

- An academic abstract typically outlines four elements relevant to the completed work:
- The research focus (i.e. statement of the problem(s)/research issue(s) addressed);
- The research methods used (experimental research, case studies, questionnaires, etc.);
- The results/findings of the research; and
- The main conclusions and recommendations

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- It may also contain brief references, although some publications' standard style omits references from the abstract, reserving them for the article body (which, by definition, treats the same topics but in more depth).
 - Abstract length varies by discipline and publisher requirements. Typical length ranges from 100 to 500 words, but very rarely more than a page and occasionally just a few words. An abstract may or may not have the section title of "abstract" explicitly listed as an antecedent to content.

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- Abstracts are typically sectioned logically as an overview of what appears in the paper, with any of the following subheadings: Background, Introduction, Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Abstracts in which these subheadings are explicitly given are often called **structured abstracts**. Abstracts that comprise one paragraph (no explicit subheadings) are often called **unstructured abstracts**.

6 Tips for Writing a Strong Abstract

1. Write the paper first

- Some authors will tell you that you should write the abstract as soon as your research is complete. However, it is likely that your project has been spread out over months or even years; thus, the full picture of what you have accomplished may not be fresh in your mind. Writing the paper first solves this problem, effectively refreshing your memory as you condense all of the aspects of your work into a single document. The manuscript can then be used as a guide to write the abstract, which serves as a concise summary of your research.



2. Provide introductory background information that leads into a statement of your aim

- The first section of your abstract is very valuable real estate. These 1-3 sentences must inform the reader about why you have undertaken this research.

3. Briefly describe your methodology


- The methods section of your abstract is your chance to summarize the basic design of your study. Excessive detail is unnecessary; however, you should briefly state the key techniques used.

4. Clearly describe the most important findings of your study

- Just as the abstract may be the most important part of your paper, the results subsection is likely the most important part of your abstract. This is because the main reason that people are reading your abstract is to learn about your findings. Therefore, the results subsection should be the longest part of your abstract, and you should try to maximize the amount of detail you include here.

5. State the conclusion concisely and avoid overstatements

- The last 1-2 sentences of your abstract should be devoted to the overall take-home message of your study: your conclusions. A good way to begin this section is with phrases such as “Our study revealed that...” or “Overall, we conclude that...”. Then, state your main finding as concisely as possible. If you have other interesting secondary findings, these can be mentioned as well.


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- Finally, consider including a sentence that states the theoretical or practical implications of your work and/or describes how your work has advanced the field. This will help readers to more clearly understand the importance of your findings.
 - It is very important not to overstate your conclusions in your abstract so as not to mislead your readers.


6. Things to avoid in an abstract


- The abstract is meant to be a summary of your research; as such, it usually carries a strict word count limit. Combining all of the most important aspects of your work into a paragraph of 300 words or less can be a challenging task. However, knowing what to avoid when writing the abstract can make the job a little easier.

For example, the abstract should not contain:

- Lengthy background information
- Citations
- Details about routine laboratory procedures
- Details about the statistical methods or software used (unless this is the focus of your study)

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- Undefined abbreviations or acronyms (most journals will provide a list of common abbreviations/acronyms that do not need to be defined; some journals do not allow the use of abbreviations/acronyms in the abstract)
 - Results or interpretations that are not discussed in the text

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- Once you have completed the abstract, it is important to check that all the information you have included here agrees with the information in the main body of your paper. After working on it for so long, it can sometimes be difficult to objectively evaluate whether your abstract is clear, especially because you are likely to be very familiar with the conventions within your discipline.

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- Consider giving your abstract to a colleague working in a separate discipline and ask him or her to read it. Ask your colleague whether the study is clear based solely on the abstract. This can help you to determine which areas of the abstract will require revisions, either to clarify your meaning or to better highlight your major findings.

Conclusion

- Abstracting means condensing a passage into the bare minimum size by highlighting the essential facts and details woven into a whole.
- Abstracts are important parts of reports and academic exercises such as research
- A good abstract instantly discloses to the readers the thrust of the passage, and in research, it gives a clear idea about the problem, procedure, findings and conclusion in a manner that enables readers to decide whether reading the original text is relevant to their purpose or not.

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- A good abstract is a highly condensed, coherent and well-developed paragraph which includes nothing that has not been said in the original writing.

References :

- Darmani, Deepti, et al., editors. *Interpreting A Play : The Merchant of Venice & Developing Compositional Skills*. Chennai : Macmillan Publishers India Private Limited, 2017. Print.
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THANKS

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