

# Less is More: Writing the Abstract

- What is an abstract?
- An abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the article's contents.
- The abstract allows the reader to survey the contents of the article quickly.

# Less is More: Writing the Abstract

- The purpose of the abstract is to give your readers a concise overview of your thesis/project.

# Less is More: Writing the Abstract

- A well-written, succinct abstract might be the most important paragraph of your thesis/project.
- Think about the first ten minutes of a movie: Do you want to keep watching—are you interested? Or do you want to get your money back?

# Less is More: Writing the Abstract

- Needs to be dense with information.

# Less is More: Writing the Abstract

- Embed key words in the abstract; this will help your work to be more easily found when other scholars are conducting research.

# Less is More: Writing the Abstract

- The length and nature varies according to your discipline.
- Word limits vary from journal to journal. They typically range from 150 to 250 words.
- Keep it around or under 250 words.
- The abstract is not easy. How do you boil your thesis/project down to 250 words or less?

# The Stellar Abstract Is:

- Accurate

# The Stellar Abstract Is:

- Nonevaluative



# The Stellar Abstract Is:

- Coherent and Readable

# The Stellar Abstract Is:

- Concise

# Elements of the Abstract

- States what the thesis/project does or the purpose of the thesis/project. May include brief statement of why the study is being conducted or the rationale or problem you are addressing.

# Elements of the Abstract

- Explains briefly how the thesis/project conducted the study
- What methodology was used?

# Abstract for Empirical Study

- One sentence that presents the problem under investigation

# Abstract for Empirical Study

- The participants: age, sex, and ethnic/racial group.
- In animal research, make sure you specify genus and species.

# Abstract for Empirical Study

- Essential features of study method.
- You have a word limit, so make sure your description highlights essential and interesting features of the study methodology, particularly those certain to be employed per digital searches.

# Abstract for Empirical Study

- Present the basic findings: include size, confidence intervals and/or statistical significance levels.



# Abstract for Empirical Study

- Don't forget the conclusions and the implications or applications.

# Abstract for Literature Review

- Problem under investigation.

# Abstract for Literature Review

- Study eligibility criteria

# Abstract for Literature Review

- Type(s) of participants included in primary studies.

# Abstract for Literature Review

- Main results

# Abstract for Literature Review

- Conclusions (including limitations)

# Abstract for Literature Review

- Implications for theory, policy, and/or practice.

# Abstract for Methodological Study

- General class of methods being discussed.



# Abstract for Methodological Study

- Essential features of the proposed method.

# Abstract for Methodological Study

- Range of application of the proposed method.

# Abstract for Methodological Study

- For statistical procedures, provide some of the essential features (power efficiency, etc.)

# Elements of the Abstract

- Indicates what you found.

# Elements of the Abstract

- States what you concluded from the findings of your study.
- This element may also include the implications of the study or significance of the study.

# Questions that Drive the Abstract

- Who is your audience?
- Advisor?
- Committee?
- Peers?
- Journal?
- Scholars in the field?

# Questions that Drive the Abstract

- What impression do you want to make on your audience?
- How will your audience view you and your work after reading the abstract?
- Will they be encouraged to read on?

# 4 Paths the Abstract Can Take

## 1. Introducing purpose.

- What is your intention, main idea, of hypothesis?
- In other words, what's the purpose?
- You can also include a direct statement of the main goals of objectives of the research or problem that drove the research.



# 4 Paths the Abstract Can Take

## 2. Describing the Methodology

- Describe the design, procedures, or method you used to conduct the research

# 4 Paths the Abstract Can Take

## 3. Summarizing Results

- Limit this approach to the thesis/project that involves observations, discoveries, or solutions to a problem.
- This path works well when you have collected data.

# 4 Paths the Abstract Can Take

## 4. Presenting Conclusions

- Interpret results and suggests implications of the research.