

Tips for Writing a Research Abstract

An abstract is a succinct summary of the work being presented. It should guide the reader in determining whether the article or work is of interest. The basic components of an abstract are as follows:

- The research problem and the motivation for the work. Why is the problem important? What practical, scientific, theoretical, or artistic gap does the work address?
- The methods, procedure, technique, or approach that was used in the work being presented. What was done to obtain the results?
- The results, findings, or product that was derived. What new knowledge was learned? Or what was invented? Or what was created?
- The conclusion or implications of the work. What are the broader impacts of the work presented? What new questions have emerged? (optional)

An abstract should be brief. The word count will vary depending on the venue.

An abstract and an introduction have similarities; however, the Table C-1 shows important differences between the two.

Table C-1. Introduction and Abstraction.

	Introduction	Abstract
Main purpose	To introduce the research by presenting its context or background.	To summarize the research, particularly the objective, the results or findings, and conclusions.
Length	Has no hard limit on word count.	Limit on word count (typically).