



Writing an Abstract

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What is it?

An abstract is a short piece of writing (no more than a page) that allows you to articulate the focus, context, scale and scope of your paper or research project. In clear and succinct terms it should outline your objective, methods, results and conclusions; or the why, how and what of your research project at large.

Where do you use it?

Abstracts are used in any context where there is a need to concisely communicate research outcomes. They appear in the front matter of research papers (i.e. theses, dissertations and exegeses) and are also used in conference and publication contexts.

What do you need?

An abstract requires some understanding of a bounded topic, existing research in the field, the methodology to be used, and the anticipated or confirmed results and conclusions that can be drawn. For this reason, because the abstract constitutes a kind of mini-thesis it is usually undertaken at the end of a research project.

References

Barett, Estelle ad Bolt, Barbara eds 2014 'Appendix 7: *Creative Practice as Research: The Abstract*' in *Practice as Research: Approaches to Creative Arts Enquiry (1)*. London: IB Tauris (pp. 201).