

How to build an informative abstract

Main objectives:

In order to build a satisfactory abstract, you are required to provide a **SUCCINCT SUMMARY** that highlights the main argument of your research. In doing so, the following questions must be answered:

- (i) What is that main task of your research?
- (ii) Why did you carry out your research?
- (iii) How did you carry out your research?
- (iv) What have you concluded in your research?

Note:

- (i) The abstract to be built is only preliminary. Continual modifications of the abstract are expected throughout the writing process.
- (ii) While working on the following steps, you are encouraged (although not required) to interact with a peer writer in order to make your writing process more effective and fruitful.
- (iii) After completing all the following steps, there is a checklist to make sure that you have completed all the required tasks. Please ask your peer writer to go through the checklist with you.

Step by step guidance:

Please answer the following questions as clearly, specifically, and concisely as possible. Feel free to substitute any of the words or phrases in the blue color below (they were provided only to inspire your thoughts, not to replace them).

Step 1: Please answer the following question in **one sentence**.

*What is the **main task** of your research?*

You may answer the question by beginning with “**In this study/research, we analyzed ...**”

Step 2: Please answer the following question in one sentence.

*What is the **motivation** for carrying out your research (e.g. (i) background information and (ii) some unsolved problem in the field of your research)?*

You may answer the question by beginning with “**Many studies on ... have demonstrated... But there is a problem ...**”

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Step 3: Please answer the following question in two to three sentences.

*What are the **key procedures** carried out to implement the main task? That is, how did you carry out the main task of your research? (e.g. conducting some experiments?) Please specify 2 ~ 3 points (one sentence per point).*

You may answer the question by beginning with “In particular, firstly we conducted an experiment on ... Second, ... Third, ...”

Step 4: Please answer the following question in two to three sentences.

What are the main results achieved from the tasks in (3)? You may combine this section with (3).

Step 5: Please answer the following question in one sentence.

*What is the **conclusion (thesis statement)** based on the main task carried out in your research? That is, what have you found in your research?*

You may answer the question by beginning with “Based on the results we found in ..., we can conclude that ...”

Step 6: Combine your answers to the above questions using one of the following abstract formats. You are free to change any of the words or phrases.

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Abstract format 1 (for Science paper)

{Motivation} Many studies on have demonstrated But there is a problem **{Main task}** In this study/research, we investigated ... **{Procedures & Results}** In particular, firstly we conducted an experiment on ... Then we compared the results from the experiment with ... Finally we conducted another experiment on ... **{Conclusion}** Based on the results we found in ... we can conclude that ... **{Implication}** [optional] One important implication of our conclusion is that ...

Abstract format 2 (for Humanities paper)

{Motivation} Many studies on have demonstrated But there is a problem **{Main task}** In this study/research, we analyzed ... **{Procedures & Results}** In particular, firstly we studied the work by ... Then we compared the results from the study with ... Finally we further studied the work by ... **{Conclusion}** Based on the results we found in ... we can conclude that ... **{Implication}** [optional] The implication of our conclusion is that ...

Abstract Check List

- (1) Is your abstract written in one paragraph? If not, why can't it?
- (2) Has your abstract highlighted why you carried out your present research?
If not, why not?
- (3) Has your abstract highlighted the main objective or task of present research? If not, why not?
- (4) Has your abstract highlighted how you carried out your present research?
If not, why not?
- (5) Has your abstract presented the thesis statement (i.e. conclusion) of your present research? If not, why not?