

How to write an abstract

Template for a well written abstract

1. Include the title of your project as the title of your abstract.
2. Write a sentence making a broad statement about the topic of research.
3. Write the next sentence (or two) focusing more specifically on the intent of the research.
4. Write several sentences indicating the problem to be solved and your hypothesis (or engineering goals).
5. Write a brief statement describing the methodology used. Include the variables that were investigated. Don't get too bogged down on the specific details, but make sure the reader has the basic idea of what you did.
6. State whether your data supported, failed to support, or refuted the hypothesis, (or whether your engineering goals were met) and otherwise summarize the results of your project. NEVER use the words, "proved" or "disproved".
7. Discuss the important implications of your research. Pay particular attention to what went differently than expected and why. Many great discoveries resulted from investigating unexpected results.
8. Write a sentence that gives the conclusion(s) of the research work.
9. Write a statement of potential future research.
10. Count the number of words you just wrote. If you need to, edit your sentences to bring your abstract within the required 50-250 word count. While doing this, read for flow, sensibility, and accuracy.
11. Put all the sentences in paragraph form.

Characteristics for a well written Abstract

- Gives a clear snapshot of what you set out to do, and what you discovered.
- Is succinct (short and to the point).
- Can be written in the 3rd person or 1st person, but emphasizes the research and not the researcher.
- Assumes scientists and other knowledgeable people are the audience.
- Uses complete but concise sentences. Don't get "wordy".
- Uses present tense for the existing body of facts.
- Uses past tense for the completed research.
- Defines specialized terminology and abbreviations.
- Is 50 to 250 words long.
- Is neatly typed and is **single** spaced.