


How to Write a Scientific Abstract ? (1/2)

By Alexandra Giraud and Eva Roy



A scientific abstract is a brief summary of a research project, designed to provide an overview of your study. Writing a scientific abstract requires clarity and conciseness while highlighting the originality and relevance of the presented research.

How to Structure Your Abstract ?

A scientific abstract follows a precise structure with four key sections :

- 1. Introduction and Context (2-3 sentences):** Briefly introduce the theoretical framework of your research and highlight the importance of the topic, allowing the reader to understand your motivation for conducting the study. Clearly state your main objective.
- 2. Methods (3-4 sentences):** Provide a concise description of your method (sample, tools used, type of study). There's no need to include overly technical details.
- 3. Results / Expected Results (3-4 sentences):** Summarize your main findings. If data collection is not yet complete, outline the expected results.
- 4. Discussion, Implications, and Conclusion (2-3 sentences):** Highlight the contributions of your research, including new perspectives, practical and theoretical implications.

Advices

Follow the Writing Guidelines

When submitting an abstract for a scientific event, the scientific committee usually provides specific writing guidelines to follow. These may include the abstract's length, the inclusion (or exclusion) of references (following APA standards), and the submission language.



To determine if an information is essential: try removing it and see if it hinders the understanding of the abstract or the research.

Use Accessible Language

Even if your audience is specialized, avoid overly complex jargon. Your abstract should be understandable to a broad range of researchers within your field.

Emphasize the Originality of Your Research.

It is important to highlight what distinguishes your research from other existing works on the topic.



Have your abstract reviewed by experts in your field as well as by non-specialists.

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Before submitting your abstract, take the time to ensure that it meets all the criteria for a scientific abstract.

- My abstract is clear, it can be understood by someone who isn't an expert of my field.**
- My abstract respects all the writing guidelines.**
- My abstract covers all the key sections of a scientific abstract : Context and Objectives, Methods, Results (or Expected Results), Discussion, Implications, and Conclusion.**
- My abstract highlights the originality of my research.**
- My abstract has been reviewed by a third party.**
- All authors have approved the abstract.**

Questions to Help You Write Your Abstract :

- Why did I decide to conduct this research ?
- What is the main objective of my research ?
- What are the key aspects of my methodology that are essential to understand my research results ?
- What is important to retain from my research ?
- How can the results of my research be useful ?
- Does reading the abstract make the reader want to learn more about my research ?