Office for Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavor (URaCE)

Abstract Preparation Guide

What is a research abstract?

An abstract is a specific type of persuasive academic writing that provides a concise overview (typically 250 words) of a research project that is either completed **or** "in progress".

**The contents of an abstract are <u>discipline specific</u>.

5 Major Components of an Abstract
While the contents of an abstract vary by discipline, this document typically contains the following components:

1) <u>Background Information</u>
   - Positions the research within the larger body of literature or current discourse within the field. This section may also address the gap in the literature that the research aims to fill.

2) <u>Thesis Statement/Research Question/Hypothesis</u>
   - A narrow and specific (rather than broad and general) research question provides the foundation upon which the entire research project is based.

3) <u>Methods/Approaches/Materials</u>
   - Details "HOW" the research was (or is being) conducted, and WHY the selected methods were most appropriate for the project.

4) <u>Results/Findings/Expectations</u>
   - Major findings (or what the researcher hopes to find) are included in this section.

5) <u>Conclusions/Implications/Future Research</u>
   - This section should include an explanation regarding WHY the research is significant, and HOW it contributes to the discipline or current discourse. It may also indicate future directions for the research.

* Note: The components outlined above vary according to the discipline. You should seek guidance from your faculty mentor/advisor when preparing your abstract or project description.

<u>Abstract Writing Resources</u>

UTC Writing and Communication Center (https://www.utc.edu/library/services/writing-and-communication-center/wcc-resources)

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/index.html)

University of Wisconsin (Madison) Writing Center (https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/writing-an-abstract-for-your-research-paper/)