

Writing an Abstract

What is an abstract?

- The abstract is a brief overview of your selected type of work.
- It is typically a condensed version of a longer piece of writing that highlights the major points covered, while concisely describing the content and scope of the work
- ***Your Discover USC abstract title may not exceed 100 characters (not including spaces) and the abstract may not exceed 350 words.***
- An abstract should tell your reader:
 - WHAT you did
 - WHY you did it
 - HOW you did it
 - WHAT you found
 - WHAT it means

Parts of an Abstract

Introduction

- What is this project about?
- Why is this project interesting or important? Elaborate upon the rationale.
- What is the scope of the project?
- What was your hypothesis, what did you think you were going to find?
- Is your topic newly discovered or has it been ignored in the past?

Methods

- What was your approach? Did you use sampling, or experimentation, for example?
- Briefly explain your procedure.
- What sources did you use?
- Are your methods new to your field?

Results

- What did you find when you performed your experiment, your work?
- If your project is not completed yet, what do you think you will find?
- Do you have data collected or effects observed?
- Distinguish between fact and conjecture. If you are theorizing, make sure you state it as such.

Discussion & Conclusion

- Are your results consistent with your initial hypothesis? Why or why not?
- What is your interpretation of what these results mean?
- Why should anyone become interested in your findings?
- What are the implications for future research?

Resources

- Bischoff, A. *Writing an abstract: Some navigation tips*. Retrieved from webapp.comcol.umass.edu/msc/abstractPresentation.pdf