DXJAKD2
Academic skills course

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Lesson 4

ABSTRACT

A summary of a piece of text or a presentation, covering the main points of the text.

ABSTRACT - AUDIENCE

Who reads abstracts?

- researchers/scholars
- conference organizers/attendees
- grant committees
- general public

ABSTRACT - AIMS

Why are abstracts written?

- to attract attention
- to ensure conference acceptance
- to win a research grant
- to help the reader to understand the text
- to facilitate indexing (libraries, online databases)

ABSTRACT - STYLE

What language is used in abstracts?

- clear, concise
- formal, preferably impersonal
- promotional, evaluative
- matching the organizer's/journal's style

ABSTRACT - TIPS

What to include:

- most significant information
- links to the topic of the conference
- keywords

ABSTRACT - TIPS

What not to include:

- referencing/quoting
- tables, graphs, exact figures
- abbreviations/acronyms
- new information not present in the article/presentation proper

ABSTRACT - STRUCTURE

- Introduction/background/situation

- Present research/purpose

- Methods/procedures/subjects/materials

- Results/findings

- Conclusion/discussion/implications

ABSTRACT - STRUCTURE

Introduction/background/situation:

- What is the problem?

- How are things done today?

  ➢ stating current research

  ➢ citing previous research (yours or someone else's)

ABSTRACT - STRUCTURE

Present research/purpose:

- What did you do?

- Why did you do it?

  ➢ mentioning a gap in current research

ABSTRACT - STRUCTURE

Methods/procedures/subjects/materials:

- How did you do it?
  - ➢ stating what type of data have been used
  - ➢ explaining how the data were collected and assessed

ABSTRACT - STRUCTURE

Results/findings:

- What did you find out?

  ➤ stating what new information has been gained

  ➤ confirming or refuting existing theories / initial hypothesis

ABSTRACT - STRUCTURE

Conclusion/discussion/implications:

- What do the findings mean?
  - ➢ identifying the affected parties
  - ➢ explaining consequences

ABSTRACT AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

- Upload the *first version* of the abstract (200 – 250 words) pertaining to your presentation in the peer review application by **4 April**.

- Upload *feedback* on your colleagues' abstracts by **11 April**.

- Upload the *second version* of your abstract in the Information System by **18 April**.

- Participate in a *Skype call* with Rachel Lindner on **28 or 29 April**.

- Upload the *final version* of your abstract in the Information System by **2 May**.

- Give the *presentation* of your research on **9 or 12 May**.