

# Abstracts

Based on the presentation of dr. Jeffrey Verhey, Humboldt University  
Berlin

1. Mini-texts – summary of the article.
2. Screening devices – help readers decide whether they wish to invite you to the conference (/if a conference abstract) or read the whole article (if a journal article).
3. Used, with title, for electronic search engines
4. Previews – offering a roadmap

# Brown's Eight Questions

- Who are your intended readers?
- What did you do?
- Why did you do it?
- What happened
- What do the results mean in theory?
- What do the results mean in practice?
- What is the key benefit for your readers?
- What remains unresolved?

# Make sure that your conference abstract shows your

- 1) big picture
- 2) gap in the literature
- 3) how your project fills that the gap
- 4) the specific material (or methodology) that you use to answer that question (gap)
- 5) your argument.
- 6) a strong conclusion.

- Each contained in a single sentence.

## 1. Big picture

=topic that is being intensively debated in your field/fields, possibly with reference to scholars

*“The question of xxx has been widely debated in xxx field, with scholars such as xxx and xx arguing xxx]”.*

## 2. Gap in the literature on this topic.

- the key sentence of the abstract

*“However, these works/articles/arguments/perspectives have not adequately addressed the issue of xxxx.”.*

- 3: Your project fills this gap

*“My paper addresses the issue of xx with special attention to xxx”.*

- 4: (length here depends on your total word allowance, and more sentences may be possible):

- The specific material that you are examining—your data, your texts, etc.

*“Specifically, in my project, I will be looking at xxx and xxx, in order to show xxxx. I will discuss xx and xx, and juxtapose them against xx and xx, in order to reveal the previously misunderstood connections between xx and xx.”*

- 5: Your main argument and contribution, concisely and clearly stated.

*“I argue that...”*

- 6: Strong Conclusion!

*“In conclusion, this project, by closely examining xxxxx, sheds new light on the neglected/little recognized/rarely acknowledged issue of xxxxx. “*

