



ABSTRACTS AND HOW TO WRITE THEM

2021


Questions to consider:

- a. What is an abstract? Where can you find abstracts?
 - b. Who reads abstracts and why?
 - c. How are abstracts typically structured?
 - d. What types of abstracts do you know and how do they differ?
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a. What is an abstract?

- ▶ summary of a longer document
 - ▶ it describes content and scope of the document
 - ▶ it highlights major points covered in the work
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b. Who reads abstracts and why?

- ▶ researchers / scholars
 - ▶ conference organizers
 - ▶ conference attendees
 - ▶ grant committees
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Who reads abstracts and why?

- ▶ **Stand-alone mini-texts:** summarizing the given research for readers/conference attendees
 - ▶ **Screening devices:** helping them decide whether to read an article/attend a presentation
 - ▶ **Previews:** giving them a road-map to better understand an article/a presentation
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c. How are abstracts typically structured?

These are the sections of an abstract. Put them into the correct order.


- a. Present research / purpose
- b. Discussion / conclusion / implications
- c. Methods / materials / subjects / procedures
- d. Background / introduction / situation
- e. Results / findings

How are abstracts typically structured?


Answer – the typical order is:

- d. Background/introduction/situation
 - a. Present research/purpose
 - c. Methods/materials/subjects/procedures
 - e. Results/findings
 - b. Discussion/conclusion/implications
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What types of abstracts do you know and how do they differ?

- ▶ **Research article abstracts** – serve mainly as a summary of the article
- ▶ **Conference abstracts** – decide whether the author will be accepted to a conference  therefore should be somewhat promotional

Watch the video and answer the questions:

- ▶ a. Which **three major types** of abstracts did the speaker describe?
 - ▶ b. What are the **main differences** between these types of abstracts?
 - ▶ c. Which of the types of abstracts tends to be **the longest**?
 - ▶ d. What does the abbreviation **IMRaD** stand for?
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a.+b. Types of abstracts and how do they differ

- ▶ **Descriptive abstracts:** shorter, include only introduction, purpose, and methods.
 - ▶ **Informative abstracts:** longer, include all sections (the above + results, discussion / conclusions)
 - ▶ **Hybrid:** a combination of the two
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c. Longest abstracts + d. IMRaD

- ▶ Informative abstracts, e.g. dissertations abstracts, are the longest.

- ▶ IMRad:

I Introduction

M Methods

R Results

a and

D Discussion

**What type/style of abstracts
are you going to write in
this course?**

