**Academic writing - Abstract**

**Task 1 What would you do if you did not have a clue and had to write an abstract of your bachelor thesis?**

An abstract is a short summary of a longer work (such as a [dissertation](https://www.scribbr.com/category/dissertation/), presentation or [research paper](https://www.scribbr.com/?cat_ID=14816)). The abstract concisely reports the aims and outcomes of your research. An abstract is usually around 150–300 words, but there is often a strict word limit, so make sure to check the requirements of the university or journal.

**Task 2 What is the main purpose of an abstract?**

**Task 3 There are four things you need to include. How would you order them?**

* Your [methods](https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/methodology/)
* Your [conclusion](https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/write-conclusion/)
* Your [research problem](https://www.scribbr.com/research-process/research-problem/) and [objectives](https://www.scribbr.com/research-process/problem-statement/#step-3-set-your-aims-and-objectives)
* Your key [results](https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/results/) or arguments

**Task 4 True or false?**

1. An abstract can be an excerpt copied from a paper or dissertation.
2. You should follow a logical order that mirrors that of your original document.
3. The abstract should be understandable to readers who are not familiar with your topic.
4. Authors should write the abstract at the very end when they have completed the rest of the text.
5. You can include some brief context on the social or academic relevance of your topic.
6. It is not necessary to present your results in an abstract.
7. You can discuss other people´s work and refer to specific publications.
8. If you have not been given any guidelines on the length of the abstract, write more than one double-spaced page.

**Task 5 Sample abstract**

* **Who is this paper relevant to? What is the main finding?**
* **How would you divide the text into paragraphs? Can you identify individual sections?**
* **Highlight useful phrases in the abstract.**

UK environmental organizations currently face a significant funding gap. It is well-established that representations of individual victims are more effective than abstract concepts like climate change when designing fundraising campaigns. This study aims to determine how such representations can be better targeted in order to increase donations. Specifically, it investigates whether the perceived social distance between victims and potential donors has an impact on donation intention. In this context, social distance is defined as the extent to which people feel they are in the same social group (in-group) or another social group (out-group) in relation to climate change victims. To test the hypothesis that smaller social distance leads to higher donation intention, an online survey was distributed to potential donors based across the UK. Respondents were randomly divided into two conditions (large and small social distance) and asked to respond to one of two sets of fundraising material. Responses were analyzed using a two-sample t-test. The results showed a small effect in the opposite direction than hypothesized: large social distance was associated with higher donation intention than small social distance. These results suggest that potential donors are more likely to respond to campaigns depicting victims that they perceive as socially distant from themselves. On this basis, the concept of social distance should be taken into account when designing environmental fundraising campaigns.

(Adapted from: <https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/abstract/>)

**Task 6 Collocations**

**Go to** [**https://www.freecollocation.com/**](https://www.freecollocation.com/) **and look up the most common and useful collocations for the following nouns. Focus on verbs, e.g. *an article explores…***

**article**

**study**