

How to write Abstract

Basically, an abstract comprises a one-paragraph summary of the whole paper. Abstracts have become increasingly important, as electronic publication databases are the primary means of finding research reports in a certain subject area today. So everything relevant to potential readers should be in the abstract, everything else not. According to, there are two basic types of abstract:

– **An informative abstract** extracts everything relevant from the paper, such as primary research objectives addressed, methods employed in solving the problems, results obtained, and conclusions drawn. Such abstracts may serve as a highly aggregated substitute for the full paper.

– On the other hand, an **indicative or descriptive abstract** rather describes the content of the paper and may thus serve as an outline of what is presented in the paper. This kind of abstract cannot serve as a substitute for the full text.

A checklist defining relevant parts of an abstract is proposed in, whereas the author suggests each part to be packed into one sentence:

1. Motivation: Why do we care about the problem and the results?
2. Problem Statement: What problem is the paper trying to solve and what is the scope of the work?
3. Approach: What was done to solve the problem?
4. Results: What is the answer to the problem?
5. Conclusions: What implications does the answer imply?

Also, there are some things that should not be included in an abstract, i.e. information and conclusions not stated in the paper, references to other literature, the exact title phrase, and illustrative elements such as tables and figures.

How to write title

The dissertation title is your first opportunity to let the reader know what your dissertation is about. With just a few words, the title has to highlight the purpose of the study, which can often include its context, outcomes, and important aspects of the research strategy adopted. But a poorly constructed title can also mislead the reader into thinking the study is about something it is not, confusing them from the very start.

Expectations (What readers expect from a dissertation title)

There are a number of broad rules to think about when constructing your title. Titles should be (a) descriptive and explanatory, not general, (b) precise, and (c) internally consistent. In addition, titles should avoid using (a) abbreviations, acronyms and initials, or (b) a teasing or cute style. These do's and don'ts are briefly explained below:

Descriptive and explanatory, not general

Each word of your dissertation title carries mean; that is, it helps the reader to understand the core focus of your dissertation. It should not be general, but rather descriptive and explanatory in nature. Broadly, the title may help to explain some of the following:

- The purpose of the research
- The theory (or theories) that underpinned your research
- What variables you examined (or tested)
- Your research design (qualitative, quantitative, mixed)
- The methodology adopted
- The context and/or population studied

Precise

Being precise does not simply mean not waffling. Whilst it would be wrong to say that a dissertation title should be short, it should be concise; that is, you should try and explain what the nature of your research is in fewest words possible. A good starting point is to use simple word orders, as well as common word combinations. For example:

You could say	But it would be better to say
The motivation of employees	Stress in the workplace
Users of Facebook	Facebook users
Stress in the workplace	Workplace stress

Internally consistent

A title can be descriptive, explanatory, and even precise, but fail because it does not reflect what the research is about. In this respect, titles fail to be internally consistent when they make the reader think that the research is about one thing, when it is really about another. For example,