Parts of an Abstract

E WE LEW JONES THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF

An abstract is a short (usually one paragraph long) synopsis of a larger work or publication that can stand apart from the larger text. This handout describes the parts of an abstract.

An abstract's purpose can vary greatly depending on the context, but in general, a good abstract:

- Summarizes all content and highlights essential points
- Is short—typically a paragraph, but can be longer
- Allows readers to read report for more detail
- Includes reason, problem, methods, results, and implications

When beginning to write your abstract, you may want to start by asking the questions below.

Abstracts are written for a variety of purposes. They can include:

- Conference proposals
- Class assignments
- Funding/grant proposals
- Online database indexing
- Submitting to a journal for publication

Regardless of your purpose, your abstract should have the parts written below. You can tailor these to meet your specific needs.



What is the importance of the research? Why would a reader be interested in the larger work?

What problem does this work attempt to solve? What is the scope of the project? What is the main argument, thesis, or claim? An abstract of a scientific work may include specific models or approaches used in the larger study. Other abstracts may describe the types of evidence used in the research.

Again, an abstract of a scientific work may include specific data that indicates the results of the project. Other abstracts may discuss the findings in a more general way.

What changes should be implemented as a result of the findings of the work? How does this work add to the body of knowledge on the topic?

Adapted from https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/abstracts/