

Abstract Writing for a Scientific Paper

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**Abstract**

An abstract is a doorway to a scientific report, paper, and research proposal. After the title of the paper, an abstract is a most widely read section. Therefore, it is the most essential section of a research paper, report and grant proposal. An abstract should be drafted correctly, accurately, carefully, meticulously, descriptive, simple, specific, clear, scholarly, and structured. The four structural units of an abstract are 'Background, Method, Results, and Conclusion'. Each of these parts is important, and the results are usually a little longer. Abstracts should not have any citations and the use of any citation in the abstract is inappropriate. The abstract should contain important words (keywords) for appropriate indexing purposes.

**Keywords:** Method; Results; Conclusion

**Introduction**

An abstract is a concise summary of an experiment, lab report, and research project. One who works in academic, research, science, and technology, and wants to publish must know how to write an abstract. The purpose of the abstract is to summarize the research paper by stating the purpose of the research, the experimental method, the findings, and the conclusions. The abstract should adhere to the word limits and format guidelines of the journal, but it must utilize the word capacity to be more effective. It should be brief and tells what to expect from the paper or report. An abstract must be in alignment with the main text of the paper.

In the four parts of the abstract, background covers motivation or purpose of the study and the problem; method covers the technique, procedure, process, test, and experiments followed, it contains information to understand what was done and how; results cover the outcome of the study, conclusion talks about the significance of the study/findings and implications of the solution to other problems. The results section is the most important part of the abstract, and it should be the longest part. Phrases used in the abstract should be clear, concise, and specific with rich information content. The conclusion is about the most important take-home message, additional findings of importance, and perspective [1-5].

Each of these structural units conveys its message well only if when they are expressed using proper and clear functional expressions. Some examples of the functional expressions are given for the readers (see Table 1).

S. No.	Section	Functional expression
1.	Background	The paper deals with ... The authors focus on ... The writer concerned with ... The study aimed at ... The main objective of the work ... The purpose of this study is to explore For the purpose of ...
2.	Method	A new method for ... is developed ... A new technique for ... is proposed ... A ... test is employed ... Using ... the method, it is possible to ..
3.	Results	It is found that ... The results implied that ... The results show that ... The results suggest that ...
4.	Conclusions	The paper concludes that ... is achieved . The present model/method can successfully ... The work is of importance to ... It is recommended that ...

**Table 1:** Functional expressions used in the abstracts.

The concise principle of the abstract is that its different structural units are written using different tenses, e.g. present, present progressive and present perfect tense (see Table 2).

S. No.	Section	Tense
1.	Background	Present perfect tense, present tense, or present progressive tense
2.	Method	Present tense
3.	Experiments	Past tense
4.	Results	Present tense
5.	Conclusions	Present tense

**Table 2:** Concise principle of the abstract.

## Conclusion

It is recommended to write the paper first and then abstract. It is good to write in the third person, e.g. "this study investigates", "this research provides", or "this research found". Keep the abstract within the word limit provided by the journal, conference, etc. At the same time, the abstract should utilize the full word capacity allowed. Make a list of keywords related to the study and include those in the abstract. Always proof-read the abstract for typos, spelling mistakes, and punctuation errors. The abstract must make a balance between background, method, results, and conclusion. Stick to the instructions to authors, e.g. format, word limit, font size/style. The abstract should not have any abbreviations. It is advised to get some feedback and informal peer-review from your colleagues. The abstract should be independent and stand-alone.

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