

How to Write an Abstract

by the Writing Tutors

An abstract summarizes the content of your research paper and should be able to stand alone from it. Typically, in an abstract, you'll include the context and topic, the question the research seeks to answer, why and how the research answered that question, and your results. Save quotes, statistics, and citations for the body of your paper. Work with your faculty mentor for writing feedback and direction, as well as clarity.

GOOD EXAMPLE

Gustave Courbet and the Success of Modernism

Presented by: Joshua Collins

Abstract:

The political turmoil of eighteenth and nineteenth century Europe caused a drastic move away from monarchical rule and the art the crown favored. This was especially the case in France, which established a republic government after the Revolution of 1848. Divisions in politics mirrored the divided opinions on art, as some artists followed the standards set by the Royal Academy while others moved past them. The Realists used their own iconography and subject matter to appeal to the Academic ideals of art but departed from traditional expectations. Realist artist Gustave Courbet (1819-1877) used the political turning point to move art towards modernism through the academy's own iconography, compositions, and subject matter.

This presentation uses comparative and iconographic methods to analyze Courbet's *A Burial at Ornans* (1849-1850) and *The Studio of the Painter: A Real Allegory Summing Up Seven Years of My Artistic Life* (1855), two of Courbet's most influential works, and is informed by the writings of Stephen F. Eisenman and Linda Nochlin. *Burial* and *Studio* responded to the changing political climate and moved art away from academicism, which created a foundation for modern art movements. Courbet's interest in the political conflict across French society fueled his consistent depiction of the working class that aligned with the Realist movement and departed from Academic traditions. This expansion of subject matter to reflect the realities of modern life was embraced by avant-garde artists, and an examination of this shift helps us understand the decline of the Academy and the success of Modernism.

Key Words: Art history, Modernism, Realism

- At SOURCE word limit (250)
- No quotes or sources
- No typos or grammar issues
- Formal language (They, His, Her)
- Gives context to topic
- Works from general to specific
- Summarizes content of paper
- Consistent font style and size
- Refers to artist by last name

BAD EXAMPLE

Presented by: Jojo Coco

SOURCE Abstract:

Did you know Europe has had many intense uprisings? France especially. A new government was made in France in 1848. This changed how art was received. For example, the school of art had students listen and not listen to their rules. Painters who followed the Realist movement liked and did not like the school of art. They used different topics but painted the same way that the school taught them to. Painting is politically popular because some artists value what they do as painting... Real people use image and ideas to express creative ideas, but the opposite is expected. One Realist artist was Gustave who lived 1818-1877 (Wikipedia). He helped advance the Realist movement. He also made the modern art movement happen as well.

In my paper, I will compare and contrast *A Burial at Ornans* and *The Studio of the Painter: A Real Allegory Summing Up Seven Years of My Artistic Life*. Both were made by Gustave. I did lots of research to support my claims from lots of academic sources. There are many people who can help you understand what is going on in the world. Scientists agree the both paintings were made about French people at that time. Some of the rules taught in the school of art were used in the paintings, but what the painters painted was different. This led to different art movements in the future. Gustave painted people that were not rich and had regular jobs. This is like what was going on in France at the time. According to SmartHistory, "Courbet did something entirely new, acknowledging the dignity of everyday citizens by depicting them on the scale (20 feet wide!) previously reserved for those who held power" when talking about *Burial* We can tell the people are religious or middle class because of their garb. They are rendered realistic, with the wrinkles in their clothes and faces especially prominent. The *Studio* is also a good painting. Both paintings by Gustave lead to modern art.

- Over SOURCE word limit (300+)
- Uses sources and quotes
- Typos in writing and names
- Informal language (I, My, You, We)
- Context is missing/confusing
- Too vague or too specific
- Not written as a summary
- Change in font