

How to Write an Abstract

An abstract summarizes the content of your project and should be able to stand alone from it. Typically, in an abstract, you'll include background on the topic, the research question, and your findings.
**Save quotes, statistics, and citations for the body of your paper.

ABSTRACT

A Good Abstract has:

- 250 or fewer words (SOURCE limit)
- No typos or grammar issues
- Formal language (They, His, Her)
- Quality context to the topic
- Works from general to specific
- Summarizes content of paper
- Consistent font style and size

Information to Include:

- Motivation or problem statement
- Description of methods/procedure/approach
- Description of results/findings/product
 - Describe preliminary or expected findings if your project is not complete.
- Conclusion/implications

CREATIVE EXPLANATION

An abstract might not be appropriate way to describe your project. In this case, you may write an artist statement or a project explanation.

A Good Creative Explanation has/is:

- Descriptive language
- Direct and concise language (avoid jargon)
- Personal and specific to your work
- Approachable for audiences with varying levels of knowledges/experience in your discipline

Information to Include:

- Information about/description of your project
- Inspiration, motivation, or problem statement
- Description of your process
- How you prepared; your background in the field

It takes time to write a good abstract and content varies depending on your discipline. Look at examples within your discipline and work with your mentor for direction, feedback, and clarity BEFORE making your final submission.