

How to Write an Abstract of Research Paper in Social Sciences

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Summary

An abstract is a short brief of a completed research. It is an amalgamation of different key contents supported in the chain-process like, introduction, problem statement, methodology, data analysis and the findings at last. The different key items play a very significant role in designing a good research abstract. One of the top criteria on the basis of which the quality of an abstract is assessed is effective language. Because the effective language makes the readers decide whether or not to read the paper completely. The writing in research has the different style of presentation as well as different terminology. The effective language should be understandable along with concise and clear sentences which should spell out what exactly is being discussed in the paper.

In addition, the research requires first the problem identification that is a very significant and utmost thing in the field of research. In this phase, not only the problem identification to be discussed is needed but also it requires the solution as well. Afterwards, there comes the methodology – the set of methods. The researcher has set the mind to solve the problem, and this could be done with the use of right method. Right application of right method brings very accurate data.

Besides, when the data are gathered, there comes the problem of analyzing the data. There are also a variety of data analysis tools which can be applied as per the nature of researches under study. Now, putting implications is the last phase of an abstract. It expounds what are the limitations and applications of the research under study.

Following are the key components of an abstract

1. **Motivation:** Why do we care about the problem? What is the gap you are making efforts to fill in your research?
2. **Objective:** This asks what exactly the objective and purpose of your study.
3. **Methods:** What did you actually do to get your results? This asks how you are doing the study to reach the problem.
4. **Product:** Here you are asked as what did you get and learn in the end of your study?
5. **Implications:** Here you are asked to answer: what effects your findings bring towards the gap you were doing this study to fill?

The key components of writing an effective abstract

- ✓ After you have completed your study/paper/project, now you are trying to present it in a nutshell. So you are trying to develop an abstract of your complete research. Before you swing into action, the first thing to keep in mind is to read the complete study for time and again.
- ✓ Now you are done with complete reading. Start writing a rough draft sans following the sentences the paper comprises. Do not rely on the way how the complete research is done. Summarizing the information in a new way.
- ✓ After you have developed a rough paper, now compare the complete research and the rough draft of your abstract to see if something important is not missed. Then summarize each and every component you used in the study. The component of the study are, purpose of study, problem statement, methodology, results and findings along with recommendations as well.

Don'ts

- ✓ Do not go ahead with this paper, this report, this project, this study. To commence with about the research is greatly better than about the paper.
- ✓ Try to avoid putting the acronyms, abbreviations, trade names or symbols in the abstract.
- ✓ Do not rephrase or repeat title in the abstract.
- ✓ Do not start any sentence with "it is suggested that, it is believed that, it is felt that".

- ✓ Do not use the sentences that end in "is described", "is reported", and "is analyzed".

How an abstract evaluated

Abstracts are usually evaluated using rigorous criteria

Topic

A good topic should have certain qualities

Substantive qualities

Topic Relevance

Originality

Clear scope of research

Contemporary relevance to scientific interests

Contemporary policy or social change issues

Technical qualities

- ✓ Effective language
- ✓ Short sentences
- ✓ Simple words
- ✓ Not too short, not too long
- ✓ No repetition of words
- ✓ Length must be between 150 to 250 words

Research problem

It is the most significant part of a research. It should be discussed in the abstract clearly, precisely and sharply within 2 sentences. It should state the research puzzle. Problem identification is an utmost element which is purely prioritized in the research.

Things in nutshell

Abstracts represent major points of your research and explain the importance of your work; purpose of your work under study, method of going through your project, learning and benefits, and the conclusion along with some recommendations.