

# Writing an Abstract

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## What is an abstract?

- The abstract is a brief overview of your selected type of work.
- It is typically a condensed version of a longer piece of writing that highlights the major points covered, while concisely describing the content and scope of the work
- ***Your Discover UofSC abstract title may not exceed 100 characters (not including spaces) and the abstract may not exceed 350 words.***

## An abstract should tell your reader:

- WHAT you did
- WHY you did it
- HOW you did it
- WHAT you found
- WHAT it means

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## RESEARCH/SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES: Questions to guide your writing

### Introduction

- What is this project about?
- Why is this project interesting or important? Elaborate upon the rationale.
- What is the scope of the project?
- What was your hypothesis, what did you think you were going to find?
- Is your topic newly discovered or has it been ignored in the past?

### Methods

- What was your approach? Did you use sampling, or experimentation, for example?
- Briefly explain your procedure.
- What sources did you use?
- Are your methods new to your field?

### Results

- What did you find when you performed your experiment, your work?
- If your project is not completed yet, what do you think you will find?
- Do you have data collected or effects observed?
- Distinguish between fact and conjecture. If you are theorizing, make sure you state it as such.

### Discussion & Conclusion

- Are your results consistent with your initial hypothesis? Why or why not?
- What is your interpretation of what these results mean?
- Why should anyone become interested in your findings?
- What are the implications for future research?

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES: Questions to guide your writing

## Introduction

- What is the background or overview of this activity? Provide a context for the experience.
- Include your role/title and where the engagement took place (name of organization you worked for or that managed your experience, location, and any significant information about the group or location—size of organization, its primary purpose).

## Activity/Event Description

- What did you do? Provide enough detail so that the reader has a solid picture of your engagement. If there were any defining moments, explain these in further detail.
  - Example: Global Learning -I lived here... I visited... I explored...I learned about...I took 'x' courses... I worked with... I was responsible for... I was instrumental in...
- What were your tasks as a part of your role in the experience?

## Motivation or Purpose

- Why did you do it?
- Describe why and when you got involved--interest/passion, encouragement from peer or faculty/staff mentor, or perhaps relation to major or future career choice?
- If implementing a large project, what was the purpose? How did it contribute to a great need?

## Reflection/Significance

- What did you learn? Be specific. If you say you learned about diversity—describe what you learned about diversity. How did this experience help you think in a different way? (Now that I have done x, I understand that...)
- What was the impact on you?
- What do you want others to learn/know from your experience?

### *For students pursuing GLD:*

*Be sure to include how your BTC experience related to your within the classroom experiences (Carolina Core, minor, major). For example, how did a BTC experience help you to better understand a concept that you had discussed in class, or how did something you studied in class cause you to pay more attention to some aspect of your BTC experience? You might drill down to one class or focus on an overarching theme of your major courses.*

## Resources

- Bischoff, A. *Writing an abstract: Some navigation tips*. Retrieved from [webapp.comcol.umass.edu/msc/abstractPresentation.pdf](http://webapp.comcol.umass.edu/msc/abstractPresentation.pdf)
- Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning. *Presentation Expectations*. Retrieved from [www.sc.edu/about/initiatives/center\\_for\\_integrative\\_experiential\\_learning/graduation\\_with\\_leadership\\_distinction/presentation.php](http://www.sc.edu/about/initiatives/center_for_integrative_experiential_learning/graduation_with_leadership_distinction/presentation.php)