

# 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 USC 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

## RESEARCH/SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

### 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

- Are your results consistent with your initial hypothesis? Why or why not?

### Conclusions

- 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 EXPERIENCE ACTIVITIES**

### **Introduction**

What is the background or overview of this activity?

### **Activity/Event Description**

What did you do?

### **Motivation or Purpose**

Why did you do it?

### **Reflection**

What did you learn?

What was the impact on you?

### **Significance**

What does it mean?

What do you want others to learn/know from your experience?

### **Future plans or Next Steps**

What is next for you and/or for the activity/project?

*This information was used with permission from Annaliese Bischoff at the University of Massachusetts*

*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)*

