



91180

Writing an abstract

Faculty of Science

Writing an Abstract

Abstract

- Often the only part of a paper people read.
- How it is written, along with what it says helps the reader decide if they will read your paper in more detail
- **Writing a good abstract takes time and practice**
- Most abstracts are between 200-300 words.
- Different journals have different requirements and different styles.
- Abstracts have 4 main sections
 - Background (introduction and Aim)
 - Methodology
 - Results
 - Conclusion

Writing an Abstract

- This task is designed to help you develop your abstract writing skills
- You will write an abstract based on practical 4, this is practice for your report where the abstract is an important part of the practical assessment.

Background

Introduction and Aim (Objective)

- **What is the problem you are studying and why is it important?**
- Provide background to the study, why you did the study, primary aim -specific question or hypothesis being addressed.
- This should take 1-3 sentences.

Methodology

How was the study conducted- What methods were used in this investigation?

- Brief overview of the method-
 - this could be by stating what type of study it was, ie retrospective case study,
 - microbiological study and brief outline of what you did.
- Generally, you want to keep the methods section brief 1-2 sentences.

Results

What were your key findings?

- Here it is important to focus on the main findings.
- Try to describe this with 2-3 key points.
- Be specific, and precise
 - Give results so that it is clear how you got to your conclusion

Conclusions

- • **What can you conclude based on your study**
- **What are the broader implications?- What is the key impact**
- Describe your key finding and the implications of your research.
- Highlight new or innovative findings.
 - Does this study indicate a need to change food handling practise or change/increase education?

Grammar and Expression

■ Abstracts

- **Are** written in complete sentences with correct spelling and punctuation
 - Abbreviations –need to be spelt in full the first time
- **Are** written in past tense (you are describing what you have done)
- They **do not** contain references
- They **do not** contain tables or images
- They describe results but do not refer to specific tables or figures
- They should not use sentences such as ‘will be discussed’
- Bacterial names must be spelt correctly and italicised

Abstract Format

■ Please use the following Headings for your abstract

Background or Introduction

Aim or Objectives

Method

Results

Conclusion