

Writing Your Abstract

Abstracts are important standalone texts that provide readers an overview of your research project. Although an abstract is quite brief (between 150-300 words) it must concisely explain to the reader what your research is about, its findings and contribution to your field. The abstract serves as a screening device which allows readers to decide whether or not the article is relevant for them. That's why it is important to have a well written abstract, so that readers will want to read the rest of your article!

Abstracts contain certain 'moves' which helps guide the reader. Below are the moves that are often found in Abstracts and the questions they imply. AcaWriter is able to identify some of these moves. Next to each move is the AcaWriter tag, this tag identifies which move your sentence has made.

AcaWriter Tag	Explanation of Move	Implied Questions
Background / Context / Purpose move		
B	Providing background information <i>and/or</i>	What do we know about the topic?
E	Setting up the situation / context /showing significance <i>and/or</i>	Why is this research important?
S	Stating the author's research goals / purpose / summary of the research	What is this study about? What is the aim of this research?
Problem / Gap in the literature move		
C	Stating the problem / issue that is being addressed <i>and/or</i>	What problem are you trying to solve? What is the main claim?
Q	Indicating a gap in the literature / raising a question	What is unknown?
Methods / Approach / Procedure move		
	Stating the research approach / methodology / method <i>and/or</i> Describing the evidence / data used	How did you solve the problem? What model /approach was used? What data / evidence was used and interpreted?
Results / Findings move		
S N	Stating the findings / value of your research	What was discovered? What's the answer to the problem?
Conclusion / Implications move		
	Stating what the results mean / indicate <i>and/or</i> Stating the significance / contribution of your research	What are the implications of your answer? What do the findings mean? What's the significance of your research?