How to write an abstract

Few writers are able to create a good abstract on the first attempt. In addition, the structure and content of your article is likely to change as you write your draft, so it is worth reviewing your abstract regularly throughout the writing process.

The format of your abstract will depend on the discipline in which you are working. It should mention each significant section of the article, with enough detail for readers to decide whether or not to read the whole paper. While it's great to make the abstract interesting, above all it should be accurate. Don't promise more than your article or presentation delivers.

All abstracts generally cover the following five sections:

1. **Reason for writing:** What is the importance of the research? Why would a reader be interested in the larger work?

2. **Problem:** What problem does this work attempt to solve? What is the scope of the project? What is the main argument, thesis or claim?

3. **Methodology:** An abstract of a scientific work may include specific models or approaches used in the larger study. Other abstracts may describe the types of evidence used in the research.

4. **Results:** An abstract of a scientific work may include specific data that indicates the results of the project. Other abstracts may discuss the findings in a more general way.

5. **Implications:** How does this work add to the body of knowledge on the topic? Are there any practical or theoretical applications from your findings or implications for future research?

The importance given to the different components can vary between disciplines. You should look at abstracts of research that are similar to the journal that you are submitting to as a model for your writing.

5-Question Technique

Use this handy 5-Question Technique to structure your abstract.

1. Why did you do it?
2. What did you do?
3. How did you do it?
4. What did you find out?
5. What does it mean?

Hint: *Structure your writing around your aims, methodology, results, implications*

More details.
Find out more at https://research.csu.edu.au/research-support/researcher-development