



Writing a Good Abstract for Your Research Project

STEM Education Outreach Programs

MSC 02 1570 – Hokona Hall, Room 356

1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

(505) 277-4916 Phone

<http://stemed.unm.edu>

A Good Abstract...

- Follows the format of the scientific method.
- Is written in the 3rd person.
- Assumes scientists are the audience.

A Good Abstract...

- Uses complete but concise sentences.
- Uses present tense for the existing body of facts.
- Uses past tense for the completed research.

A Good Abstract...

- Defines specialized terminology and abbreviations.
- Is 50 to 250 words long.
- Is typed neatly, single spaced.



What's In A Good Abstract?

1. Write a sentence making broad statement about the topic of research.
2. Write the next sentence or two focusing more narrowly on the particular intent of the research.
3. Write several sentences indicating the problem to be solved and the hypothesis that was posed.

What's In A Good Abstract?


4. Write a very brief statement to describe the methodology employed *(This may be omitted if space or time is short)*.
5. Write several concise statements indicating which variables were explored and compared and if the data obtained supported the hypothesis. These sentences summarize the results and discussion sections of the research paper.

What's In A Good Abstract?

7. Write a sentence that gives the conclusion(s) of the research work and a statement of the direction for future research.
8. Count the number of words for the sentences you just wrote. If you need to, edit your sentences to bring your abstract within the required 50- 250 word count.

What's In A Good Abstract?

9. Put all previous sentences in paragraph form.
10. Be sure to check your spelling AND grammar. Remember, you may soon have judges reading your work!!



**That's all
you have
to do!**