Writing an Abstract

In Collaboration With the GCSU Writing Center

MURACE Abstract Formatting Guidelines

1. Make sure your title is in title case (ex. The Brown Fox Ran Away)
2. Your title should be no more than 15 words
3. Your abstract should be between 150-300 words
4. References are allowed in your abstract, but not required
5. Do not use special characters; the submission form cannot read them
6. A maximum of two primary authors is permitted
7. All abstracts must be approved by your faculty mentor listed on the submission form
8. Double check punctuation and spelling; the title and author(s) will appear exactly as they are entered.

Elements of a Successful Abstract

Move One (Purpose/Problem)- involves outlining, promoting, problematizing the field or topic, justifying this particular piece of research/study. It answers the questions- What do we know about the topic? and Why is the topic important?

Move Two (Methods)- Introduces methodology, demographic, or procedural comments. Answers the question- What is the study about?

Move Three (Procedure)- Summarizes the main findings. Answers the question- How was it done?

Move Four (Results)- highlights the outcome/results. Answers the question- What was discovered?

Move Five (Implications/Conclusion)- lists further implications, limitations, and future developments. Answers the question- What do the findings mean?

Knowing Your Audience

Knowing your audience is the key to a great abstract. Why? Because it will affect the presence of background information and terms. Keep the audience in mind when forming your abstract.

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