

APA Example: Abstract

Introduction:

According to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, “an abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the contents of the article; it allows readers to survey the contents of an article quickly, and, like a title, it enables abstracting and information services to index and retrieve articles” (1995, pg. 12).

If an Abstract is required:

The abstract should reflect the purpose and content of the manuscript and should only include information that is included in the body of the paper. The abstract should not exceed 120 words. Unlike the body paragraphs of the paper, the first line of the abstract is not indented (American Psychological Association, 1995, pp. 12-13).

Format:

The abstract is on the page following the title page and the page before the body of the paper. It should not be centered on the page, but remain vertically aligned at the top. The abstract, just like the other pages, will have a running head and page number in the header. The word Abstract should be center-aligned at the top, and the text of the abstract should immediately follow. This page is also double-spaced.

Example:

Abstract

This is the abstract, or a summary of your entire paper. It should be 100 to 120 words in length.

You should choose your words carefully so that this abstract does not get too long. Notice that there is no indent in the abstract. It is one paragraph and the left margin is flush and the right margin is jagged (not justified). The abstract is written in past tense and should include something about the general topic you are writing about, any major hypotheses, your method, your results written in a general way without numbers, and a very brief concluding statement.