

# scientific ABSTRACT cheat sheet

: concisely communicates the purpose, theoretical/experimental approach, principal findings and conclusions of a research article

— SHORT  
80-150 words  
— LONG  
150-250+ words

An abstract is an **INDEPENDENT** representation of a research article; it should be able to stand alone.



... paragraph  
**1**

More people will read your **TITLE** than your **ABSTRACT**

& more people will read your **ABSTRACT** than your **PAPER**.

**TIP:** Spell out acronyms the 1st time.  
Ex: AWC--Academic Writing Center (AWC)

includes what was studied and how it was studied

example model:

## TITLE

- introduction**  
state purpose and accomplishment of work
- methodology**  
what you did/used
- results**  
what you found/saw;  
*major findings only*

Don't add new information not included in your paper.

**optional:**  
background  
gap/problem  
research area

**consider:**  
implications  
application

Inform. **DON'T** describe.



Always read the Guide for Authors to understand the requirements of a particular journal.

## COMMON LANGUAGE

The purpose of this study is...  
In this paper we present...  
Our study aims to...  
This study investigated...  
Few studies have...  
The importance of...has been...  
There is an urgent need...  
Few researchers have addressed...  
This paper introduces...

...was/were found in...  
...was/were conducted  
...was/were obtained (from/by)...  
...was/were generated by...  
...was carried out using...  
By doing..., we were able to...  
The material investigated...  
In order to...  
Our aim was to...

It is evident from the results that...  
Using the method described above,...  
In most cases...  
As shown in Fig #...  
...can be observed in Fig #.  
As expected...  
It seems that...  
It appears that...  
Contrary to...

## VERB TENSES

- referring to the paper:  
present simple
- gap/problem:  
present simple
- methodology:  
past simple (pass. voice)
- results:  
past simple
- achievements:  
present perfect, present s.

Use and repeat search phrases and keywords to make it easier for the right people to find your work.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Glasmann-Deal, H. (2010). Science research writing for non-native speakers of English. London: Imperial College Press  
Robinson, M., & Stoller, F. (2008). Write like a chemist: A guide and resource. New York: Oxford University Press.

