

Define Abstract and discuss it in detail.

Prem Prakash Pankaj,

Assist. Professor, v.m.p.u.

An abstract is a concise form of a paper, an article and a paragraph. It discusses idea in brief what one has expressed in his detailed writing. An abstract is a 150- to 250-words that provides readers with a quick overview of your essay or report and its organization. It should express your writing and your key points. The length of an abstract may be 150 to 200 words or 250 words.

According to Carole Slade, an abstract is “a concise summary of the entire paper.”

- The function of an abstract is to describe, not to evaluate or defend, the paper.
- The abstract should begin with a brief but precise statement of the problem or issue, followed by a description of the research method and design, the major findings, and the conclusions reached.
- The abstract should contain the most important key words referring to method and content: these facilitate access to the abstract by computer search and enable a reader to decide whether to read the entire dissertation.

Many papers in the social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering sciences follow IMRaD structure: their main sections are entitled Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion. People use the abstract to decide whether to read the rest of the paper, so the abstract for such a paper is important.

Because the abstract provides the highlights of the paper, you should draft your abstract after you have written a full draft of the paper. Doing so, you can summarize what you have already written in the paper as you compose the abstract.

Format of an abstract is-

In the middle topic is placed, later introduction in short which is followed by middle part of the abstract contains description about topic, and last conclusion is placed.

At last 4 to five keywords are placed just below the conclusion.

Example of format

Topic

Name of the student

Class

Introduction

Description

Conclusion

keywords