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**APA Abstract**

**An Abstract is a brief, 150-250 words or less, comprehensive summary of the contents of the article**.

*See pp. 26–27 in the APA Publication Manual (6th ed.) for specific types of Abstracts and their requirements*.

**An Abstract:**

* Needs to be dense with information.
* Allows readers to survey the contents of an article quickly.
* Varies by discipline (sciences, humanities, social sciences, business, etc.)
* Enables persons interested in the document to retrieve it from abstracting and indexing databases.
* Is required by most scholarly journals.
* Can be the most important paragraph in an article.

**Example of Social Sciences Abstract:**



* APA format heading
* “Abstract” centered
* Introduction (scope and purpose)
* Short description of methods
* Results
* Conclusions

**What are Keywords?**

Although keywords are not necessary according to the APA manual, some professors and publishers require they be included with the Abstract. Keywords are terms or phrases (5-6) that reflect the major ideas, findings, and/or argument(s) of your paper.

* **Creating Keywords**

To create keywords for your paper, imagine that you are Googling the topic of your paper and consider which key terms or phrases you would use.

* **Formatting Keywords**

Below your Abstract, indent as you would for a new paragraph. Type *Keywords*, italicized and capitalized. Next, place a colon and 5-6 words key words that apply to the focus of your paper.

The information for this handout was compiled from the following sources:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington,

DC: Author.

Knisley, K. (2009). *A student handbook for writing in Biology* (3rd Ed.). Sunderland, MA: Sinauer.

Reeves, C. J. (2011). *Differences between junior and senior academic self-concept, study habits, and grade expectations*. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Psychology, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas, USA.