

**APA Abstract**

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

*See pp. 73–75 in the APA Publication Manual (7th 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, including the findings.
* 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.

**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 for student papers, according to the APA manual, some professors and publishers require they be included with the Abstract (see section 2.10, p 39). Keywords are 3 to 5 terms, phrases, or acronyms 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 list 3-5 words key words that apply to the focus of your paper. DO NOT use a period after the final key word.

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

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

Knisley, K. (2009). *A student handbook for writing in Biology* (3rd Ed.). 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 [Unpublished manuscript].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.