

**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL ON ABSTRACT
FOR ENG 10 SECTIONS C AND T
PROF. MDG DIZON - LECTURER**

A. Definition

- from the Latin “abstractus” – to draw from or separate
- “that which comprises or concentrates, in itself, the essential qualities of a larger thing or several things.”
- a condensation that presents succinctly the objectives, scope, and findings of a document
- a summary of a report
- factual condensation of a report

B. Functions

- helps cope with the influx of new data and in searching for older data
- promotes current awareness
- bridges language gaps
- prevents duplication of previous work
- saves time and money
- helps store and retrieve data

C. Kinds

1. Informative abstract

- succinctly informs the reader of the salient features of the subject studied
- if properly written, it reflects the organization of the report giving the objectives of the investigation, the methods employed in the research, and the conclusions reached and/or results obtained with special emphasis on any new data or discoveries which would affect or be useful to other similar research or applications
- Example:

This study investigated the characteristics that Maranao rice farmers associate with a credible extension agent and the characteristics of rice farmer that are related to their perceptions of a credible extension agent. Results of the study revealed that the extension agent should have a dynamic personality and that the farmer’s perception of a credible extension agent is a function of the relationship between the extension agent’s characteristics and the farmer’s education, exposure to information sources, social status, and exposure to extension agents. The findings indicated that an extension worker, in order to be credible, should have similar religion, ethnic grouping, and values as the farmers.

From: CANEDO, F.M. Maranao rice farmers’ perceptions of a credible extension agent.

2. Indicative or descriptive abstract

- usually, a statement of the general nature and scope of the report

- indicates the contents of the paper without presenting results and conclusions in detail
- recommended only for long papers containing large amounts of data that do not possibly fit into the space of an abstract
- usually supplied for bibliographies or collections of papers such as symposium records

Example:

Few industries can compare with the steadily increasing growth of the particleboard industry. Particleboards account for 15 % or almost one-sixth of the weight of US-produced lumbars.

This article reports the effects of certain variables on layer characteristics and determines the degrees that facecore density, thickness, and stiffness affect the physical properties and dimensional stability of a structural, or load-bearing, composite board. In addition, methods are explained that were developed and verified to predict stiffness based on layer properties.

From: GEIMER, R.L., M.M. MONTEREY and W.F. LEHMANN. Effects of layer characteristics on the properties of three-layer particle board.

3. Combination of indicative and informative abstracts

- In practice, the distinction between indicative and informative abstracts blurs.
- Abstracts have evolved from rigid formats into flexible, viable modes of expression highly responsive to user needs and this is exactly what the good abstractor tries to achieve.
- There is nothing wrong with mixing indicative and informative abstracts, and the gray areas in between, as long as user needs are served.

Example:

Coconut oil and corn oil or various mixtures of the two were incorporated in nutritionally adequate diets and fed to rats to determine their nutrient effects on growth, serum cholesterol liver lipids and liver morphology. Growth rates and serum cholesterol values of rats fed 10 percent coconut oil were found to be comparable to those rats fed the same percentage of coconut oil and to those of the groups given the coconut-corn oil mixtures. Coconut oil, however, led to produce an abnormal deposition of fat in the liver. No variation in liver fat deposition was found in the group fed the different mixtures of corn oil and coconut oil. The significance of these findings is discussed.

From: MIRANDA, C.L., M. CAEDO and J.M. GONZALES. 1974. Effects of coconut-corn oil mixtures on white rats. *Phil J of Nutrition* 27(2): 13-17.

4. Extracts

These are informative abstracts accompanied by more detail, such as tables of comparative data and other excerpts from the original.

5. Critical abstracts

These are abstracts that do not only describe the content of the document but also evaluate the work and the way it is presented.

6. Mini or micro-abstracts

These are highly condensed indicative abstracts.

Example :

The use of plastics in the manufacture of XYZ is expected to double within the next five years.

Example :

A study of Apollo rock samples shows no evidence of life in the moon.

7. Statistical or numerical abstracts

Data are presented in tabular or numerical form. Statistical abstracts are particularly suited to projections of use and other market trends.

8. Synopsis

This is an informative abstract which contains nontextual materials such as references.

9. Author's abstract

This is an abstract written by the author of the original document.

D. Guidelines in Abstracting

1. As much as possible, write an informative abstract.
2. Length is usually 200 to 250 words of a full paper; not more than 100 words for a note or a communication.
3. Use the same terminology as used in the original report or document.
4. Avoid unconventional or rarely used symbols or characters.
5. Avoid an abstract which is virtually nothing but a verbal extension of the title of the paper.

Example:

Title: Effects of thirty percent hydrogen peroxide solution on germination of Ipil-Ipil (*L. leucocephala*)

Abstract: An investigation on the effect of thirty percent hydrogen peroxide solution on the germination of Ipil-Ipil (*L. leucocephala*) seeds were conducted. The authors concluded that the results were satisfactory.

6. Strive to use phrases for clauses, words for phrases when possible.
7. Avoid uncommon abbreviations and symbols.