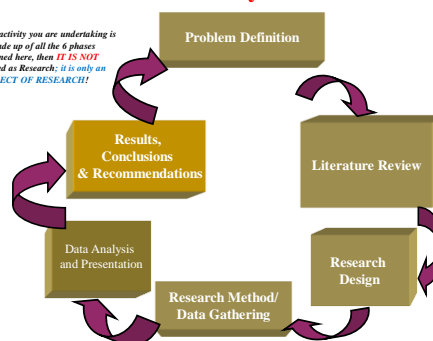




## Phase 6-Results, Conclusions and Recommendations

### The Research Cycle/Phases

*N/B: If the activity you are undertaking is not made up of all the 6 phases mentioned here, then IT IS NOT considered as Research; it is only an ASPECT OF RESEARCH!*



### After Analysing Data-the Results, Discussion and Conclusions



- ▶ **The results section** is where you report the findings of your study based upon the methodology [or methodologies] you applied to gather information. The results section should state the findings of the research arranged in a logical sequence without bias or interpretation. A section describing results is particularly necessary if your paper includes data generated from your own research.
- ▶ **The discussion/conclusion** is to interpret and describe the significance of your findings in light of what was already known about the research problem being investigated, and to explain any new understanding or insights about the problem after you've taken the findings into consideration.
- ▶ **The conclusion** is intended to help the reader understand why your research should matter to them after they have finished reading the paper. A conclusion is not merely a summary of the main topics covered or a re-statement of your research problem, but a synthesis of key points and, if applicable, where you recommend new areas for future research.

### Interestingly....a good abstract is written last...



- ▶ Yet, we know that an abstract is usually the first thing we read about a research....
- ▶ We write it last, because we now have a full picture about the whole research.

### What is an Abstract??



- is a summary of a longer piece of academic work.
- explains the main elements of the academic paper.
- is published in isolation from the main text and it is understandable without reference to the longer piece.
- should contain keywords and phrases to be found in search engines.
- is composed of 100 – 300 words.
- does not contain any new information.

### COMPONENTS OF AN ABSTRACT



1. **Background** – Write one or two sentences summarizing the context of the article.
2. **Aim(s)** – Write one or two sentences to explain why this research is conducted.
3. **Method(s)** - Write one or two sentences to give information about the methods used in the study.
4. **Results** - Write one or two sentences to describe the major findings, implications and the applications of the study.
5. **Conclusions** - Write one sentence to explain the most significant consequence of the work.
6. **Keywords** – Write at least three keywords which are related to your work.

## Types of Abstracts



1. **Critical Abstract**  
A critical abstract provides, in addition to describing main findings and information, a **judgment or comment** about the study's validity, reliability, or completeness. The researcher evaluates the paper and often **compares it with other works on the same subject**. Critical abstracts are generally 400-500 words in length due to the additional interpretive commentary. These types of abstracts are used infrequently.
2. **Descriptive Abstract**  
A descriptive abstract indicates the type of information found in the work. It makes no judgments about the work, nor does it provide results or conclusions of the research. It does incorporate key words found in the text and may **include the purpose, methods, and scope** of the research. Essentially, the descriptive abstract only describes the work being summarized. Some researchers consider it an outline of the work, rather than a summary. Descriptive abstracts are usually very short, 100 words or less.
3. **Informative Abstract**  
The majority of abstracts are informative. While they still do not critique or evaluate a work, they do more than describe it. A good informative abstract acts as a surrogate for the work itself. That is, the researcher presents and explains all the main arguments and the important results and evidence in the paper. An informative abstract **includes the information that can be found in a descriptive abstract [purpose, methods, scope] but it also includes the results and conclusions** of the research and the recommendations of the author. The length varies according to discipline, but an informative abstract is usually no more than 300 words in length.
4. **Highlight Abstract**  
A highlight abstract is specifically **written to attract the reader's attention to the study**. No pretence is made of there being either a balanced or complete picture of the paper and, in fact, incomplete and leading remarks may be used to spark the reader's interest. In that a highlight abstract cannot stand independent of its associated article, it is not a true abstract and, therefore, rarely used in academic writing.



## Example Question....

Read the abstract below and identify what kind of abstract it is. (1 mark)-

Use of A Writing Web-Site By Pre-Masters Students On An English for Academic Purposes Course. Gillett A. J., University of Hertfordshire.

Abstract:

*During the last 10 years, use of the World-Wide-Web for educational purposes has increased dramatically. However, very little empirical research has been carried out to determine the effectiveness of this use. The aim of this study was therefore to investigate the effectiveness of using the World-Wide-Web in the Communication Skills writing course. Two groups of students were taught writing by two different methods: one group was taught by a lecturer in a traditional classroom, while a second group included use of an on-line web-site in their course. The two groups were assessed in the same way after a twelve-week period of instruction. Results of the assessment showed significant differences between the two groups, the group that used the on-line web-site performing much better on all aspects of the test. This suggests that the use of computer assisted learning programmes for at least some of the teaching time available can be recommended for Communication skills writing courses.*

## Answers:



- a) This is an **INFORMATIVE** abstract.
- b) Find the components (*Background, Aims, Methods, Results, Conclusion*), of the abstract above: **(7 marks)**

### Background: (2 marks)

- *During the last 10 years, use of the World-Wide-Web for educational purposes has increased dramatically.*
- *However, very little empirical research has been carried out to determine the effectiveness of this use.*

### Aims: (1 mark)

*The aim of this study was therefore to investigate the effectiveness of using the World-Wide-Web on an EAP writing course.*



### Methods: (2 marks)

- *Two groups of students were taught writing by two different methods: one group was taught by a teacher in a traditional classroom, while a second group included use of an on-line web-site in their course.*
- *The two groups were assessed in the same way after a twelve-week period of instruction.*

### Results: (1 mark)

- *Results of the assessment showed significant differences between the two groups, the group that used the on-line web-site performing much better on all aspects of the test.*

### Conclusions: (1 mark)

- *This suggests that the use of computer assisted learning programmes for at least some of the teaching time available can be recommended for Communication skills writing courses.*