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| **THEME 5.** **WRITING AN INTRODUCTION.**  **QUALITIES OF A GOOD ABSTRACT** |

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| Learning outcomes  This lesson offers you opportunities to:   * Gain an overview about writing an abstract and introduction; * Acknowledge about features of a good abstract and introduction; * Develop note-taking skills while watching speech; * Gain a clear sense of writing a research paper introduction; * Reflect your understanding about writing an abstract and an introduction.   *Key-words: abstract, interpretations, conclusions, implications, introduction, methods, results, discussion.* |



An **abstract** is often positioned at the beginning of an article or report, offering readers a synopsis of its principal topics. Abstracts serve as a crucial resource for readers, offering critical information at the outset, enabling them to swiftly choose whether to continue with the reading. Readers should get a thorough knowledge of the material to be addressed in the article or report upon reading the abstract. A proficient abstract must:

**Comprehensible.** An abstract must be readily understandable to persons from diverse backgrounds, irrespective of their knowledge of the topic. Abstracts should refrain from any technical terminology unless specifically indicated. The emphasis should be on articulating the principal concepts in a clear and comprehensible manner. The structured framework of an abstract promotes clarity of comprehension.

**Concise.** A precise abstract is essential. Although there are no rigid word constraints for composing an abstract, it is prudent to strive for a succinct and targeted overview, often including one or two paragraphs. When summarizing, concentrate on the main topics for readers seeking a concise summary. Further information is available in the whole article.

**Organized.** Abstracts must be meticulously planned and ordered. It is customary across several sectors to include the goals, methodology, scope, results, conclusions, and recommendations of a research into an abstract. Some abstracts, especially descriptive ones, may exclude findings, interpretations, and suggestions.

**Unbiased.** Making value judgments on one's own or another researcher's work in an abstract is inappropriate. The depiction of the work's essence must be clear and articulated in an objective and neutral tone.

**Features of a Good Abstract**

* Provides a comprehensive overview of the entire paper, typically in a single paragraph.
* Generally, consists of 150-300 words.
* Commonly articulated in the past tense and predominantly in the third person.
* Comprises entirely original text (not extracted from the paper).
* Functions independently—the reader can comprehend the abstract without additional context.
* Incorporates keywords; includes only essential references; typically excludes graphics.
* Utilizes succinct, clear, and precise language that is meticulously edited.
* Comprehends the audience's knowledge base: what information does the reader possess?
* Is not deceptive; recognizes when results are provisional

## Structure of a Good Abstract

## In scientific writing, the abstract must include several phrases from each of the other sections:

## *Introduction:* the study's objective and essential background

## *Methods:* fundamental study design

## *Results:* overview of principal findings

## *Discussion:* interpretations, conclusions, larger implications, and future research directions

## This structure is applicable to abstracts in subjects outside the sciences.

## *Introduction* = The current status of the subject and the specific gap addressed by your study.

## *Method* = An account of the procedures used to formulate your argument.

## *Results* = A declaration of the thesis.

## *Discussion* = The broader significance of your results.

***There are four mandatory elements of a good abstract, they are:***

**The research paper's objective, aim, or purpose.** This section of the abstract examines the rationale for the investigation. The study's goal is explicitly articulated. It provides an answer to the question, "What is the importance of the issue?" This section delineates the issue, principal argument, or thesis statement. The study's societal importance is emphasized. What was the objective of the researchers in performing the study? What is really at risk in this situation?

**Method or methodology that states the procedures used in the study's conduct:** The methodology section offers a succinct summary of the techniques used in data gathering, processing, and analysis. It provides a succinct summary of the researcher or researchers' methodology in executing the inquiry. Quantitative research employs diverse samples, instruments, and statistical analyses to evaluate data. This section indicates the broad breadth of the study. The methodology section comprises significant ideas and pertinent terminology that distinguish it and improve its searchability. It also emphasizes the investigation's emphasis, including a certain set of persons, a particular demographic, neighborhood, environment, and more.

**Results or major findings.** This section of the abstract offers a succinct overview of the study's results or key discoveries. It concisely encapsulates the study's significant conclusions, noteworthy discoveries, or principal highlights in a single sentence. We might provide the probability values to illustrate the significance of the computed correlations or differences. It underscores the practical implications of the findings and their potential to augment the current understanding of the topic.

**Overall conclusion.** This portion of the research abstract presents the study's principal result. What conclusions did the researchers draw from the findings? When composing the abstract, it is important to prioritize the conclusion. The investigation's conclusions must be rigorously supported by its results; they should not be broad assertions devoid of compelling arguments or proof.

**What is a research paper introduction?**Research paper introductions need some work. They are often positioned at the beginning of a document. They direct the reader from a broad topic to the specific emphasis of your composition. They also provide elucidation on the substance of your paper:

**Scope:** The subject you will be discussing;

* **The context** of your topic;
* **Importance:** Why does your research significance in the context?

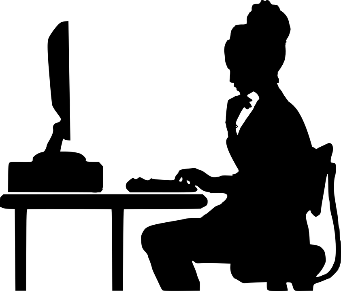
**Why is a research paper introduction necessary?** The start of your research paper is essential. The title does not convey the subject matter of your research paper to the readers. This is the moment your introduction becomes relevant.

***A decent introduction will include:***

* Facilitate your reader's comprehension of the topic's background;
* Justify the significance of your research piece;
* Offer a guide for traversing the remainder of the work;
* Arouse the curiosity of your reader.

**What should you include in an introduction for a research paper?**

The introductions of research papers are always unique. Research is fundamentally unique in essence. They typically comprise the six things enumerated below:

**An overview of the topic.** A summary of the topic. Commence with a comprehensive overview of your topic. Refine the overview until you pinpoint the specific topic of your article. Subsequently, resolve any concerns or inquiries you possess about the situation. It is essential to remember that you will be addressing them in the publication.

**Prior research.** The introduction is the segment where you examine previous results or conclusions pertinent to your topic. Integrate both archaic and modern scholarship. This contextual information suggests that you have performed a preliminary inquiry. Furthermore, it informs others who may be unfamiliar with previous research.

**A rationale for your paper.** Emphasize the immediacy of addressing your subject matter. If possible, link it to current events. You may identify a deficiency in prior theories or highlight a lacuna in existing research. An excellent explanation, irrespective of your methodology, will captivate your readers' attention and compel them to persist in reading your article.

**Describe the methodology you used.** Disclose your methodologies for augmenting the believability of your endeavors. Present a summary of your aim and the questions you will explore. Kindly explain your study methodology and the techniques used to quantify your results. Furthermore, kindly provide a comprehensive elucidation of the significant judgments you executed.

A **thesis statement** should succinctly conclude your primary introduction. This statement delineates the principal themes that will be included in your research study. The procedure must be explicit and comprehensible.

A **concise overview**. Introductions often end with a succinct summary. Your outline must include a succinct summary of all the subjects you want to address in the next parts. Consider it a framework that will assist your reader in traversing your manuscript. The emphasis on these six criteria varies according to your discipline. A physics research report, for example, may highlight methodologies. The overview may be included in an English journal article.

**Three tips for writing your introduction:**

**Compose your introduction after completing the main content.** An introduction highlights the results of your inquiry. Prioritizing the composition of the body of your article is essential before hastily completing the introduction. It will be straightforward to establish a comprehensive summary.

**Commence with a compelling quote or narrative.** You want a well-researched and significant paper. Nevertheless, this does not imply it must be tedious or lacking in exhilaration. Commence your introduction with a pertinent quotation or an engaging tale. This method will engage your readers and leave them yearning for further content.

**Be concise.** Research articles address intricate subjects. Aim to write with maximum clarity to assist your readers. Employ succinct phrases. Guarantee that the grammar and syntax are unambiguous and succinct. To get a polished and refined beginning, it is advisable to read it aloud. Thoroughly proofread your work before to finalization. Errors might convey an unprofessional image.

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| **Activity 1. Reading. Read the text and answer the following questions.** |

1. What is your knowledge of abstracts and introductions?
2. What can you articulate about the characteristics and composition of an effective abstract?
3. What is the precise definition of a research paper introduction?
4. What is the purpose of an introduction in a research paper?
5. What elements should be included in a research paper introduction?

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| **Activity 2. Watch the video about “How to write a research paper introduction”, make notes while watching.** |

You tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTC-5P1VFFU&t=65s&ab_channel=WordviceEditingService>

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| **Activity 3. Speaking. Answer the following questions.** |

1. What does the author define as an introduction?
2. What is the purpose of an introduction?
3. What kind of inquiries should an introduction address?
4. What is the appropriate length for a standard introduction?
5. What elements should be included in the introduction?
6. What actions should be undertaken at the commencement of the introduction?
7. How do you construct a precise hypothesis? What is a hypothesis?
8. When is it appropriate to compose an introduction?
9. What guidance was provided in the film on the composition of an introduction?
10. What is the importance of the beginning in a research paper?

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| **Activity 4. Listening. Complete the notes below. Write ONE WORD ONLY for each answer.** |

**How to write a research paper introduction**

Your introduction will establish the foundation upon which your readers approach your work. There are several tips that can be applied:

***The purpose of the introduction:***

* It includes content about the 1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in knowledge that your study aims to fill, the results should therefore be familiar to the reader;
* It must answer two main questions.
* The context must first identify that there is a knowledge gap in what it is, it must explain why it needs to be filled.

***Structure your introduction:***

* Most tend to be around 10 percent of the total length of your paper.
* The introduction consists of background information about a topic being studied, the 2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for undertaking the study, key references, a clarification of important terms, definitions or abbreviations.
* State your area of research and then immediately show what is already known.
* Finally, you should discuss how you will 3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this problem.
* Start with a strong statement that reflects your research subject area.
* For instance, what do we know about breathing of bottlenose dolphins?
* Avoid stating 4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ information that is too broad in nature.

***At the beginning of the introduction:***

* Cite all of the 5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that you use for background information;
* Review only relevant up-to-date primary literature.

***In the second part of your introduction:***

* Highlight areas where too little in information is available;
* Identify what logical next steps can be developed based on existing research.
* By this, you will show 6\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in your decision to pursue this paper study.

***In the last part of your introduction,***

* State your purpose and give a clear hypothesis or objective of the study.
* The hypothesis is a very short, one to two-sentence 7\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or explanation of what will happen in your study.

***When to write an introduction:***

* Consider writing the introduction second to last;
* Be aware of grammar and style issues that directly affect the 8\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;
* Try and write in the active voice when possible;
* Strive for 9\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sentences;
* Use stronger verbs that impact sentence length and strength the writing.
* Don’t 10\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ first person pronouns such as I and we.

**Listening. Key:**

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| 1. Gaps 2. Rationale 3. Resolve 4. Background 5. Sources | 1. Confidence 2. Supposition 3. Readability 4. Concise 5. Overuse |

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| **Activity 5. Vocabulary. Match the words with an appropriate definition.** |

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|  | **Words** | **Definitions** |
| 1 | chronological | a) coming before a more important action or event, especially introducing or preparing for it |
| 2 | clarification | b) to try to achieve something |
| 3 | foundation | c) connected with what is happening or being discussed |
| 4 | pertinent | d) following the order in which a series of events happened |
| 5 | preliminary | e) an idea that something may be true, although it is not certain |
| 6 | pursue | f) to do or begin to do something, especially something that will take a long time or be difficult |
| 7 | rationale | g) relating directly to the subject being considered |
| 8 | relevant | h) the reasons or intentions that cause a particular set of beliefs or actions |
| 9 | supposition | i) an explanation or more details that makes something clear or easier to understand |
| 10 | undertake | j) an idea or fact that something is based on |

**Activity 5. Vocabulary. Key:** 1.d, 2.i, 3.j, 4.g, 5.a, 6.b, 7.h, 8.c, 9.e, 10.f

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