Abstract Purpose:
To Sell Your Work!
It’s a summary of the paper, and it must make sense all by itself.

Part 1
Motivation/Problem
State the Problem.
Why do we care?
What gap in the research are you addressing?

Part 2
Methods/Approach
What did you do to solve the problem or prove your point?
Conduct a survey?
Analyze works or data?
Interview clients?
Use a simulation or model?

Part 3
Results/Findings
What did you discover, establish, or develop after applying your methods?

Part 4
Conclusions/Implications
What is the big takeaway?
Relate back to Part 1 – the gap in the research and why we care.

Abstracts are short – stick to the main points.

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Abstract Writing Tips

Organize the abstract the same as your paper.

Avoid jargon.

The thesis (main focus or the big “So What?”) is usually the first sentence.

Avoid redundancy.

Limited background information of other literature may be included. (Avoid quotes – you are summarizing YOUR work.)

Use mostly short, direct sentences but vary the sentence structure.

Review!

Did I stick to the publisher’s word limit? (usually 150 – 250 words)

Did I overstate? (To avoid, consider words like may, might, could, etc.)

Are my sentences and paragraphs clear and concise?

Did I use keywords so my paper will appear in the top of a search result?

Proofread!

Once for clarity
Once for verb tenses
Once for grammar
Once for punctuation
Once for word choices
Once for wordiness
Once each for each of my writing weaknesses

Did I format according to the publisher’s instructions?

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Make an appointment at: bcc.utdallas.edu