

HOW TO WRITE AN

ABSTRACT

A GUIDE FOR MASSURC PRESENTERS

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

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What is an abstract?

- **Definition:** An abstract is a brief summary encapsulating your research
- **Purpose:** Acts as a concise preview, capturing the core of your work
 - Think of it as a snapshot: a quick glimpse into your research



COMPONENTS OF A RESEARCH ABSTRACT

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Breaking it down:

- **Introduction:** Set the stage by introducing your research question or problem
- **Methods:** Briefly explain the experimented procedures employed in your research
- **Results:** Summarize key findings without interpretation
- **Conclusion:** Highlight the broader significance of your study



LET'S DIVE INTO EACH COMPONENT



1) Introduction

Setting the stage:

- The purpose of this section is to introduce your research question or problem.
 - Example: "In this study, we investigate the impact of social media on academic performance."
- Keep it concise and engaging, sparking interest in your audience.

2) Methods

How was it done?

- The purpose of this section is to briefly explain your research methods
 - Example: "We conducted a survey of 300 students and analyzed the data using statistical models."
- Provide enough detail for clarity without overwhelming the reader.

3) Results

What did you find?

- Focus on summarizing your key findings without interpretation
 - Example: "Our findings reveal a positive correlation between social media use and lower GPA."
- Focus on presenting the most impactful results concisely.

4) Conclusion

What does the research mean?

- **Purpose:** Highlight the significance of your findings.
 - Example: “These results underscore the need for educational interventions to address social media distractions.”
- Connect your findings to real-world implications.

4) Conclusion

What if I don't have results yet?

- If it is too early in your research to include your results into your abstract, don't worry!
- You can just make sure that you include your results on your poster board to present on the day of the conference!

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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Pro tips:

- **Be concise:** Aim for brevity while conveying essential information.
- **Use clear language:** Make your abstract accessible to a broad audience.
- **Highlight key points:** Ensure that critical findings are easily discernible.



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Avoid Common Mistakes:

- **Avoid unnecessary details:** Stick to the essential aspects of your research.
- **Proofread for clarity:** Eliminate errors and ambiguities that might hinder comprehension.
- **Provide context:** Add background information to help your audience understand your work.

PAST ABSTRACT EXAMPLES

If you would like examples of past abstracts please navigate to the MassURC Hub and click "How to Prepare" then select "Writing and Submitting Your Abstract"

OR

Scan this QR code



Save the
Date!

**How to Create a
Research Poster
Info Session**

March 31st @ 7:00 PM





**Thank you!
Any questions?**

Email conference@honors.umass.edu

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Friday, February 20th**