

How to Write an Outstanding Abstract...

- to concisely and accurately inform readers about the content of your article,
- to attract the best referees to review your article,
- to promote your article to the scientific community,
- to generate more readership and downloads of your article, and
- to yield more citations of your article.

What should you include in an outstanding abstract?

- the topic of your research, its importance, and its connection to real-world applications,
- the problem you solved,
- the methods you used to solve the problem,
- the results of your research, and
- the implications of and recommendations based on your results.

What should you **not** include in an outstanding abstract?

- equations, figures, and tables,
- information that is not in your article,
- citations to other articles, and
- secretive or mysterious language to entice researchers to read your article.

How should you write an outstanding abstract?

- Write the abstract *before* you compose your article. Then, once you have written your article, reread your article and ensure that the abstract reflects the text.
- Keep the length to one paragraph of 5-7 sentences, approximately 200 words.
- Order the paragraph as follows: the importance of your research, the problem, your methods, your results, and conclusions (implications and recommendations),
- Summarize your research by only using information contained within the article,
- Use terms in your abstract that can be understood by a wide audience (avoid excessive jargon and acronyms),
- Include keywords that will help scientists find your article by using internet searches, and
- Reread your abstract to ensure that it is concise, clear, and grammatically correct.

(Sources: <http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~koopman/essays/abstract.html> and <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/656/1/> accessed 17 June 2013.)