

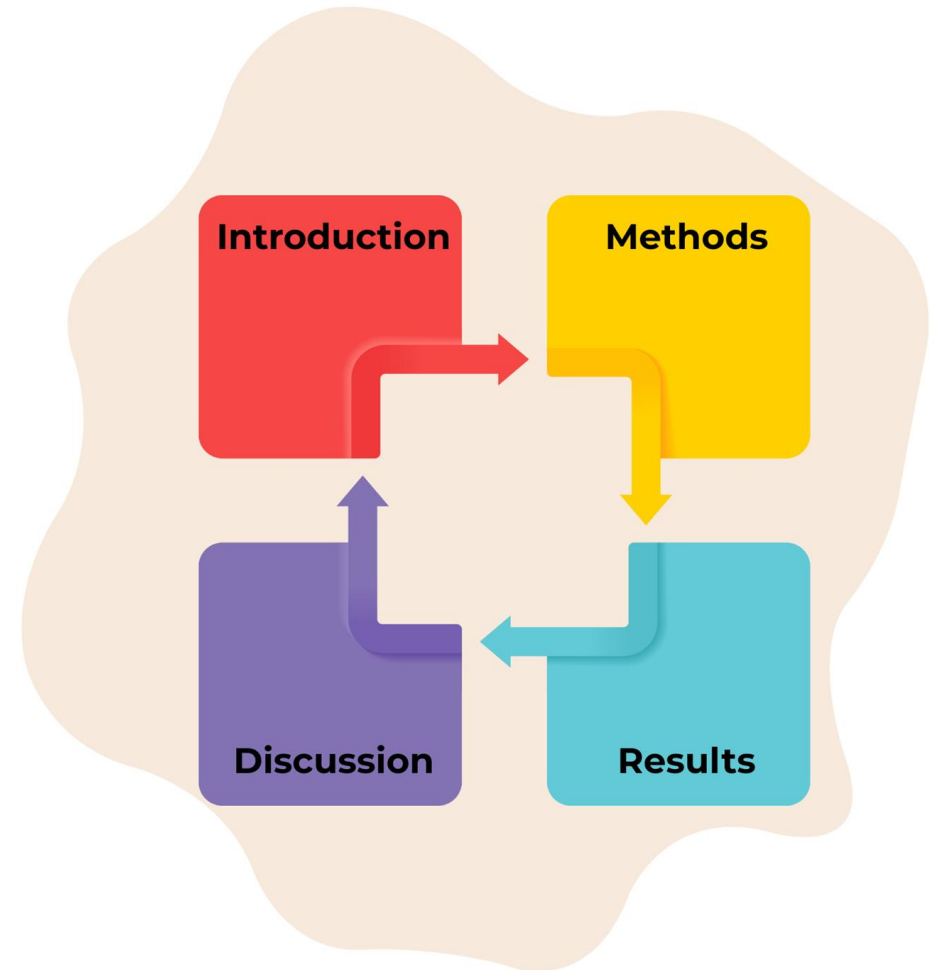


Writing an Effective Abstract

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Definition: A concise **summary** of an article, organized into a few sections. An independent unit, comprehensible as a self-contained text.

Function: The abstract should call attention, like a «business card»! It is the first item read by readers, editors and reviewers.



Therefore, it should provide a preview of the main information, **encouraging the reader to read the full text**



Preferred style

- ❑ Past (perfect) tense and passive voice
- ❑ Short sentences to convey key messages
- ❑ No citations, tables, equations

Rules of thumb

- ❑ Introduction describing the knowledge gap on the topic (the «why» of the work)
- ❑ Explanation of:
 - What was done?
 - What was found?
 - What are the main conclusions?
- ❑ Demonstrate the key numbers/results



Research paper
Writing a scientific article: A step-by-step guide for beginners

F. Ecarnot^a, M.-F. Seronde, R. Chopard, F. Schiele, N. Meneveau
EA3520, Department of Cardiology, University Hospital Jean-Minajon, 3, Boulevard Fleming, 25000 Besançon, France

Hengl, T. and Gould, M., 2002. Rules of thumb for writing research articles.

RULES OF THUMB FOR WRITING RESEARCH ARTICLES¹

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Structured abstract

Informative abstract providing accurate data on the contents of the work (~200 words).

Divided into sections (each section: 1-2 sentences) following the IMRaD structure:



Introduction (and aim of the study)
Methods
Results
And
Discussion (or conclusion)

The introduction should briefly answer the questions:

Why was the research conducted?

What knowledge gap needed to be addressed?

A structured abstract **can replace the entire text** : the most significant information is delivered to the reader!

The Origins of the Scientific Paper: The IMRAD Format

The sameness of a manuscript's organization provides reliability

RESEARCH:

Robert A. Day

J Indian Prosthodont Soc (July-Sept 2013) 13(3):382-383
DOI 10.1007/s13191-013-0299-x

ABSTRACT ON SCIENTIFIC WRITING

How to Write a Scientific Abstract

Suhasini Nagda

European Geriatric Medicine xxx (2015) xxx-xxx



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Unstructured abstract

Single paragraph without division into sections.

Descriptive, very short summary (50-100 words), including :

- Background
- Purpose
- Focus of the paper
- Overview of contents (not always included)

The **results** may be presented in a sentence, **without statistical data** the reader is guided on the topic of the article, but it is **necessary to access the full text to know details**.



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ABSTRACT ON SCIENTIFIC WRITING

How to Write a Scientific Abstract

Suhasini Nagda

- ❑ Write the abstract **last**, when preparing/writing your paper
- ❑ Select 1-2 sentences from the **article's introduction and results** section that could be reused in a shortened form
- ❑ Select sentences that contain KEY WORDS
- ❑ Formulate the conclusion as the main **take-home message with implications for clinical care**

QUICK TIPS to strengthen the summary skills:



- ❑ Focus on key concepts
- ❑ Remove superfluous information
- ❑ Replace redundant expressions with concise single words

Common mistakes to be avoided:

- Background too lengthily
- Absence of Why you did the work ?
- Endpoints listed in incorrect order
- Use of weak phrases instead of strong verbs
- Including data not in the manuscript

1. F. Ecarnot, M.-F. Seronde, R. Chopard, F. Schiele, N. Meneveau, Writing a scientific article: A step-by-step guide for beginners, *European Geriatric Medicine*, Volume 6, Issue 6, 2015, Pages 573-579, ISSN 1878-7649, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eurger.2015.08.005>
2. Hengl, Tomislav & Gould, Michael. (2002). RULES OF THUMB FOR WRITING RESEARCH ARTICLES.
3. Nagda, S. How to Write a Scientific Abstract. *J Indian Prosthodont Soc* **13**, 382–383 (2013). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13191-013-0299-x>
4. Day, RA (1989). [“The Origins of the Scientific Paper: The IMRAD Format”](#). *American Medical Writers Association Journal* **4** (2): 16-18

EA TOGETHER
DV FOR BETTER