

Research plan

Fourth Class
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The Abstract

- An abstract is a summary of a longer work (such as a thesis, dissertation, or research paper). The abstract concisely reports the aims and outcomes of your research so that readers know exactly what your paper is about.
- Although the structure may vary slightly depending on your discipline, your abstract should describe the purpose of your work, methods, and conclusions you've drawn.
- One common way to structure your abstract is to use the IMRaD structure. This stands for:
 - **Introduction**
 - **Methods**
 - **Results**
 - **Discussion**

Step 1: Introduction

- Start by clearly defining the purpose of your research. What practical or theoretical problem does the research respond to, or what research question did you aim to answer?
- You can include some brief context on the social or academic relevance of your dissertation topic, but don't go into detailed background information. If your abstract uses specialized terms that would be unfamiliar to the average academic reader or that have various different meanings, give a concise definition.
- After identifying the problem, state the objective of your research. Use verbs like “investigate,” “test,” “analyze,” or “evaluate” to describe exactly what you set out to do.
- This part of the abstract can be written in the present or past simple tense but should never refer to the future, as the research is already complete.
- **This study will investigate the relationship between noise and traffic flow.**
- **This study investigates the relationship between noise and traffic flow.**

Step 2: Methods

- Next, indicate the research methods that you used to answer your question. This part should be a straightforward description of what you did in one or two sentences. It is usually written in the past simple tense, as it refers to completed actions.
- This research will be conducted with 25 participants.
- This research was conducted with 25 participants.
- Don't evaluate validity or obstacles here—the goal is not to give an account of the methodology's strengths and weaknesses but to give the reader a quick insight into the overall approach and procedures you used.

Step 3: Results

- Next, summarize the main research results. This part of the abstract can be in the present or past simple tense.
- Our analysis has shown a strong correlation between noise and traffic flow.
- Our analysis shows a strong correlation between noise and traffic flow.
- Our analysis showed a strong correlation between noise and traffic flow.
- Depending on how long and complex your research is, you may not be able to include all results here. Try to highlight only the most important findings that will allow the reader to understand your conclusions.

Step 4: Discussion

- Finally, you should discuss the main conclusions of your research: what is your answer to the problem or question? The reader should finish with a clear understanding of the central point that your research has proved or argued. Conclusions are usually written in the present simple tense.
- **We concluded that the traffic flow increases noise.**
- We conclude that the traffic flow increases noise.
- If there are important limitations to your research (for example, related to your sample size or methods), you should mention them briefly in the abstract. This allows the reader to accurately assess the credibility and generalizability of your research.
- If your aim was to solve a practical problem, your discussion might include recommendations for implementation. If relevant, you can briefly make suggestions for further research.

Tips for writing an abstract

- **Write clearly and concisely**
- A good abstract is short but impactful, so make sure every word counts. Each sentence should clearly communicate one main point.
- To keep your abstract or summary short and clear:
- **Avoid passive sentences:** Passive constructions are often unnecessarily long. You can easily make them shorter and clearer by using the active voice.
- **Avoid long sentences:** Substitute longer expressions for concise expressions or single words (e.g., “In order to” for “To”).
- **Avoid obscure jargon:** The abstract should be understandable to readers who are not familiar with your topic.
- **Avoid repetition and filler words:** Replace nouns with pronouns when possible and eliminate unnecessary words.
- **Avoid detailed descriptions:** An abstract is not expected to provide detailed definitions, background information, or discussions of other scholars’ work. Instead, include this information in the body of your thesis or paper.