

What is an Abstract?

- A description of a study and its results.
- A condensed version of a full paper.
- A self-contained, short, and powerful statement that describes a larger work.
- An original document rather than an excerpted passage.
- A means of conveying to peers what research was done and why.
- A bare-bones version of a longer work, with enough meat on its bones to communicate effectively.
- An outline or rendition of a work.
- A product of information reductionism.
- A message distilled down to a brief presentation, with clear thinking and effective communication.
- A strictly limited piece of writing with a word limit (usually 300 words or less).
- An extract, brief and concise.
- An abstraction.
- An intermediate stage in an ongoing project whose completion requires publication or presentation at a conference or annual meeting.
- A brief statement that follows a very set pattern.
- A stand-alone document that encourages you to read an entire article.
- A single, important paragraph usually 150-300 words in length.
- Not a review or evaluation of the work.
- Not a linear summary or description.
- Not a publication in the same sense as a paper or report.
- Something you don't put off until the day before a deadline.
- Something your career may depend on.

Example on next page

Below is the abstract for an article entitled "PTSD Compromises Battered Women's Future Safety" written by Sara Perez and Dawn M. Johnson and published May 2008 in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. The abstract can be found in the EBSCOHost academic search elite database.

