

Quality Standards for Abstracts

Abstract Definition: An abstract is a communication of restricted length that permits informed readers to evaluate significant contributions of a scientific study, method, or technique of teaching or extension, extension program, or research technique. An abstract becomes a part of the permanent literature. Therefore, clearly stated, simple sentences with exact wording must be used to ensure clarity and brevity.

An Abstract Should Include:

- Clearly and concisely stated objectives.
- Pertinent methodological conditions (such as population and sample, design, instrumentation, methodology used, assessment of methodology, data collection, and data analysis).
- Details that directly influence the interpretation or enhance the understanding of the results or methodologies presented.
- Results condensed, and presented with care.
- National and international significance.
- Innovative research.
- A clearly stated conclusion.

An Abstract Is Unacceptable If It...

- Contains grammatical errors that cannot be easily fixed in tech edit.
- Presents data without appropriate statistical analyses or measurements of data variability.
- Includes no data or statements relating to the objective(s).
- Does not use the metric system.
- Presents opinion/speculation with no demonstrated use in teaching/extension experience.