

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

ABSTRACT FORMAT AND GUIDELINES

DESCRIPTION

The Original Research abstract is an evolution of the Research Critique and Literature Review abstracts. It is designed to further develop and integrate multiple research and professional writing skill sets. Submissions in this category must be based on original research performed by the student (although the research presented may be part of a larger project with other faculty or student investigators).

GOALS

The primary goals of the Original Research abstract are to:

- Provide a synthesized review of current research relevant to the topic,
- Formulate a unique research question, purpose statement, and hypotheses,
- Use appropriate research methods,
- Thoroughly analyze and discuss the research results,
- Demonstrate professional writing mechanics, including succinct and precise presentation of information within each section,
- Adhere to all formatting requirements.

TOPICS

Any topic within the fields of exercise science, kinesiology, health and wellness, physical education, sport psychology, nutrition, dance, and recreation may be used. Preferably, the focus of your research abstract should be specific. If the focus is too broad, then you will not have enough space on the abstract to adequately review the important information.

ARTICLE REQUIREMENTS

Only scholarly research articles relevant to the research can be used. A minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) articles can be used for support. Find articles that are interesting, challenging, and supportive to the research.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

The specific formatting requirements for each element of the abstract are detailed below. For further clarification, please refer to the Sample Original Research abstract available on-line.

Dimensions & Layout

The abstract must be typed on an 8.5" x 11" document, in Portrait layout.

Page Margins

All margins (top, bottom, left, and right) must be set to one-inch (1").

Length

The abstract must be exactly two-pages (2) in length.

Text Justification

All text, including the title, headers, and body text should be justified to the left margin.

Font Selection, Sizing & Formatting

Times New Roman font should be used throughout the entire abstract. Specific sizing and formatting requirements are as follows...

NOTE: Please follow these guidelines to the letter! DO NOT include additional style formatting, such as bolding or italics, if they are not mentioned.

- Title – 18 pt., UPPER CASE, maximum two lines in length
- Name, Email, and University – 10 pt., Title Case
- Content Headers – 12 pt., UPPER CASE, **bolded**
NOTE: Content headers for Original Research are Purpose, Methods, Results, Discussion, and References.
- Body Text – 12 pt., Sentence case
- Table Title – 10 pt., centered above table, Title Case, **bolded**
- Table Text – 10 pt. centered within table, Title Case
- Table Label and Caption – 10 pt., Sentence case, placed below and justified with left side of table
- References – 10 pt., APA guidelines for case and *italics*

R. D. PEAVY PAPERS

Title

At the top of the abstract, provide an **original** title for the study. The title must succinctly convey the focus of the study. A maximum of two lines may be used for the title.

Name, Email, and University

Directly underneath the title, provide your first and middle initials followed by your last name. Following your name, provide a preferred email address. Following the email address, list your academic institution or professional affiliation. Your name, email, and university should be separated by hyphens “ – “.

Example

R. J. Raphael – sailent_ninja@yahoo.com – Brooklyn Community College

Content and Content Headers

Abstract content will be inserted one 12 pt. line beneath the Name, Email, and University. Content for the Original Research abstract should be organized under the following content headers: **Purpose, Methods, Results, Discussion, and References**. Appropriate content for each section should be inserted directly underneath each content header. A single 12 pt. line should separate each section of the abstract. Refer to the Sample Original Research abstract (available on-line) for clarification.

CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Purpose

In this section, succinctly introduce the research question and purpose(s) of the research. At least two sentences and two references should be used to provide supporting background information and rationale for the study. In addition, provide relevant hypotheses for each research question introduced. This section should be brief.

Methods

In this section, identify the major methodological aspects of the study. This information should be organized into categories, such as: Participants, Procedures, Equipment/Instruments, and Statistics. Present all information succinctly, but with enough detail to allow for replication of the study. An original table or figure (see Graphic Requirements) may help to convey any of this information succinctly.

Results

Statistical results should be summarized in this section (preferably in a table or figure to save space). The stated hypotheses should be accepted or rejected. Keep this section brief.

Discussion

In this section, thorough explanations of the results should be provided. Include citations to supporting research articles where appropriate. Strengths and limitations of the study, future research directions, and practical considerations also should be addressed. Critical thoughts, a synthesis of information, and succinctness are fundamental for this section. An original table or figure (see Graphic Requirements) may help to convey any of this information succinctly.

References

Provide the appropriate citation information for each article in accordance with current APA formatting guidelines.

GRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS

An original table AND an original figure must be created by the student author and used within the abstract. The table and figure can be used anywhere within the abstract (see recommendations above) to convey important information efficiently. The table and figure should be placed within the section and underneath the content from which citation was made. Tables must be created within the abstract and fully editable (e.g. no scanned tables are allowed). Figures, such as charts and images, can be designed in other computer applications, and imported into the abstract.

Label the table as “Table 1.” Label the figure as “Figure 1.” A full-sentence, descriptive caption should accompany each table and figure. Lastly, each table and figure must be cited within the text of the abstract, i.e. (see Table 1 and see Figure 1). Refer to the Sample Original Project abstract (available on-line) for clarification.