

Writing an Abstract:

The purpose of an abstract...

An abstract helps readers decide if they want to read your paper and if it fits what they are looking for.

What is in an abstract...

An abstract will contain all the essential items in your paper. For example: the purpose, methods, results, and discussion. For some project types you might not be able to answer all of these questions, but an abstract should try to convey all the important aspects of your paper.

Think about it...

What important information do you look for when you're reading an abstract?

Some examples are:

- The purpose of the project?
 - Why was this project carried out? Why is this topic important or interesting?
- How did you do it?
 - What were the key steps that you followed to get from start to finish? Was there a particular group of individuals involved? Did you look at a specific medical condition?
- What did you find?
- What does it mean?
 - Why is this important?
 - For the Resident Project, the most important part of your conclusions will be to determine the relevance to Family Medicine. Does it improve practice or understanding of a particular area of Family Medicine? Be sure to make a clear link!

Keep it short...

Although you want to include all the important pieces of your paper, an abstract is meant to be very brief, meaning *no more than 250 words*. It might take a little time to get to the final version so be patient.

How to do it...

Your abstract should be the very last thing you do before you send your project off for revisions. Make sure you have read and re-read your paper. After reading through a couple times (and editing along the way) you should get a feel for the key points of your paper. Use these key points to build your abstract.

For more information about the Resident Project, please contact:

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