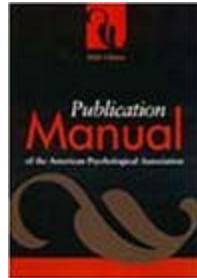


Abstract :

Summary, a summary of an article

Purpose:

Library work is considered a legitimate form of research. Summarizing articles promotes critical thinking, facilitates systematic note taking, provides information for library research papers, and serves as a basis for evidence-based decision making.



For additional information see the [Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association \(Fifth Edition\)](#). Copies are available in the Department of Special Education's Resource Center.



Abstract

- Double-spaced throughout
- Times Roman or Courier typeface, 12 point
- All pages numbered (including first page)



Developed by the faculty of the Department of Special Education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Skills

An abstract is designed to promote systematic analysis of articles. Writing abstracts is taught at the undergraduate level, required of graduates, and useful for career long learning. Practice abstracts could be filed in a personal portfolio to document acquisition of knowledge and skills.

Abstracts may summarize articles written for different purposes:

- 1) Research
- 2) Description
- 3) Commentary

Abstracts written for courses in the Department of Special Education should contain the following information unless otherwise stipulated by the instructor.

A written abstract should include:

1. An indication of the type of article abstracted.
2. If a research article: What questions were the author(s) trying to answer? Who were the subjects? What did the researchers do and what did they find?
3. If description: What are the authors describing? What are the main characteristics?
4. If commentary: What is the main topic? What point of view do(es) the author(s) hold?

A summary should contain enough detail so someone who has not read the article can get a basic idea of what the article is about.

Abstracting a Research Article

Students will be required to summarize research articles. These abstracts must be no more than 1-2 pages and include:

- The Reference
- Abstract Content
- Problem or Hypothesis
What was the research testing or why was the study conducted?
- Background Information/Literature
This should include a brief description of background information. This includes important studies described by the authors.
- Subjects
A detailed description of the subjects and how they were chosen and assigned. Details such as type of disabling conditions, number of females/males, age ranges, average ages, IQ ranges, average IQ, etc. are necessary.
- Variables
Describe how the study was conducted (experimental group, independent and dependent variables, pre and/or posttests).
- Statistic(s)
List statistics employed to analyze the results of the study (if applicable).
- Results
Describe the results and whether or not they were expected.

- Conclusions and Recommendations
What did the authors conclude and what were the implications and recommendations? Also include a brief description of limitations of the study and ideas about how to overcome these difficulties.
- Reference Information
The reference must be in APA format and be included at the beginning of the abstract. (See APA Style instructions developed by the faculty of the Department of Special Education, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire).

Examples:

- Chinn, P.C., & Hughs, D. (1987).
Representation of minority students in special education classes. *Remedial and Special Education, 8*, 41-46.
- Odom, S.A., Mclean, M.E., Johnson, L.J., & LaMontagne, M.J. (1995).
Recommended practice in early childhood special education: Validation and current use. *Journal of Early Intervention, 19*(2), 1-17.
- Smith, J.O. (1962). Speech and Language of the Retarded. *The Training School Bulletin, 58*(4), 111-123.