

Exercise 9. Abstracts



Student: _____ Date: _____

An abstract briefly sums a scholarly article in typically 250 words or less.

In scientific writing, abstracts aim to reduce unnecessary duplication of intellectual effort, that is, abstracts identify basic content for readers of the outlet, for users of access services to find the information, and for staff who process the abstract contents into metadata. Authors and editors strive to fulfill these purposes by beginning their scientific articles or reports with a meaningful title and a concise, clear abstract.

Abstracts can be classified by their purposes: informative (substantive), indicative (descriptive), or slanted (biased to a viewpoint).

Download and read Watson & Crick (1953) (obtain at <http://www.nature.com/nature/dna50/archive.html>; Note that the publisher of *Nature* has supplied an indicative abstract above the downloadable .pdf file.). Then write an informative abstract for this paper. Could you revise your abstract into a slanted abstract?

Why is the abstract published on the Nature website indicative?

What information should be included in the informative (or substantive) abstract?

Abstract

Continue on verso if needed ➔

¹ Based on: American National Standards Institute, American National Standard Guideline for Abstracts, ANSI/NISO 239.14-1997 (Revision of ANSI 239.14-1979[R2015]), (Bethesda, MD: NISO Press, 1997) 14 p. Download at http://www.niso.org/apps/group_public/project/publications.php?project_id=124 . Accessed 03/31/17.

