

# **A Practical Approach to Abstract Writing**

**Pre - Ph.D. Course Work  
Paper I (Research Methodology)**

**Prof. (Dr.) Anju Srivastava  
Department of Home Science  
Patna University  
srivastava.anju@yahoo.com  
9334121405**

# **Abstract Content**

**An abstract addresses the following (usually 1–2 sentences per topic):**

- **key aspects of the literature review**
- **problem under investigation or research question(s)**
- **clearly stated hypothesis or hypotheses**
- **methods used (including brief descriptions of the study design, sample, and sample size)**
- **study results**
- **implications (i.e., why this study is important, applications of the results or findings)**

# Abstract Format

- **Recommended fonts:**
  - **11-point Calibri**
  - **11-point Arial**
  - **10-point Lucida Sans Unicode**
  - **12-point Times New Roman**
  - **11-point Georgia**
  - **10-point Computer Modern**
- **1 inch margin on all sides**
- **placement: second page of the paper**
- **section label: “Abstract”**
  - **centered and in bold**
  - **written on the first line of the page**
- **text:**
  - **one line below the section label**
  - **not indented and written as a single paragraph double-spaced**

## DO

- Have an interesting, creative title. (The title is the 'hook'.)
- Have good spelling and grammar.
- Use short words, sentences and paragraphs.
- Use plain English.
- Run the draft by some colleagues that have not been involved in the project. If they don't understand it, nobody else will.

## DON'T

- Have an obscure title.
- Use jargon.
- Use too many abbreviations.
- Use slang and cliché.
- Use poor spelling and grammar.

# Sample Dissertation Abstract Writing

## Abstract

**(Background statement)** A review of groundwater remediation in use today shows that new techniques are required that solve the problems of pump and treat, containment and in-situ treatment. **(Narrowing statement)** One such technique is the method that involves the use of permeable treatment walls. **(Elaboration)** These methods use a reactive medium such as iron to remediate contaminated groundwater. **(Aim\*)** Several methods of implementing this remediation strategy have been described. **(Elaboration of aim)** These methods include injection and trenching. **(Specific focus of aim)** The use of a funnel and gate system via a trench has been examined in detail **(Methods)** using a groundwater modelling option of the FLAC program. **(Methods)** The modelling involved an analysis of the effect of changing the lengths of the walls and gate, varying the permeability, and varying the number of gates. **(Results)** The results showed that increasing the wall length, gate length and permeability increases the size of the plume captured. **(Key result)** An important factor in designing the walls is the residence time of the water in the gate or the contact time of the contaminant with the reactive media. **(Evaluation of results)** A sensitivity analysis has been conducted that shows that increasing the size of the capture zone decreases the residence time **(Limitations)** which will limit the design. **(Future applications and research)** The results of the modelling and sensitivity analysis are presented such that they can be used as an aid to the design of permeable treatment walls.

# Reporting New Findings About The Reasons For Increasing Economic Homogeny Among Spouses

"The growing economic resemblance of spouses has contributed to rising inequality by increasing the number of couples in which there are two high- or two low-earning partners. The dominant explanation for this trend is increased assortative mating. Previous research has primarily relied on cross-sectional data and thus has been unable to disentangle changes in assortative mating from changes in the division of spouses' paid labor—a potentially key mechanism given the dramatic rise in wives' labor supply. We use data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) to decompose the increase in the correlation between spouses' earnings and its contribution to inequality between 1970 and 2013 into parts due to (a) changes in assortative mating, and (b) changes in the division of paid labor. Contrary to what has often been assumed, the rise of economic homogeneity and its contribution to inequality is largely attributable to changes in the division of paid labor rather than changes in sorting on earnings or earnings potential. Our findings indicate that the rise of economic homogeneity cannot be explained by hypotheses centered on meeting and matching opportunities, and they show where in this process inequality is generated and where it is not." (p. 985)

The first sentence introduces the **topic** under study (the "economic resemblance of spouses"). This sentence also implies the **question** underlying this research study: what are the various causes—and the interrelationships among them—for this trend?

These next two sentences explain what **previous research** has demonstrated. By pointing out the limitations in the methods that were used in previous studies, they also provide a **rationale** for new research.

The data, research and analytical **methods** used in this new study.

The major **findings** from and **implications** and **significance** of this study.

**LEARN MORE**

- **[www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pj3iMVRUx4&ab\\_channel=EditageInsights](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pj3iMVRUx4&ab_channel=EditageInsights)**
- **[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRYchBA11k&ab\\_channel=BRIGHTSIDE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRYchBA11k&ab_channel=BRIGHTSIDE)**
- **[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxixLYBtBH0&ab\\_channel=AWUC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxixLYBtBH0&ab_channel=AWUC)**

# References

- <https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/writing-an-abstract-for-your-research-paper/>
- <https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional-aids/abstract-keywords-guide.pdf>