

A Practical Approach to Abstract Writing

Part II

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

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The main differences between a thesis and an article:

THESIS

- Meets academic requirements
- Reviewed by select committee members
- Chapters
- Lengthy, no word limits
- Table of contents
- Lengthy research of literature
- IRB approval described in detail
- Description and copies of tools used
- All findings presented
- Verb tenses

JOURNAL ARTICLE

- Meets journalistic standards
- Reviewed by panel of blind reviewers
- Sections
- Word limits
- Manuscript format
- Succinct research of literature
- IRB described in 1 to 3 sentences
- Essential and succinct tool information
- Selected findings presented
- Verb tenses are fairly consistent

Differences Between a Thesis and an Article

	Thesis	Article
Requirements	A thesis should meet the academic requirements. It may differ from one institution to another	An article should meet journal standards. It depends on the journal you want to publish in.
Reviewers	It is usually reviewed by selected committee members	It is reviewed by a panel of reviewers selected from the journal.
Organization	Thesis consist of chapters	Article consists of sections

	Thesis	Article
Word length	There is no particular word limit in thesis writing (approx 25,000 words)	Word limit is applicable on an article based on the journal (~5000 words)
Format	Thesis is formatted in a table of content manner	Journal article should follow a manuscript format
Abstract	The length of the thesis abstract is longer than a journal paper (approx 350 words)	Abstract in the article is smaller in length (approx 150 to 250 words)
Introduction	A detailed introduction is required	A concise introduction is required

	Thesis	Article
Literature	Lengthy research of literature	Shorter literature in the context of a particular work
Methods	Discuss detailed research methodology carried in the thesis	Discuss specific methodology and experiments conducted
Findings	All findings should be presented in the thesis	Only selected findings need to be presented in an article
Discussion	A thesis requires a complete discussion about the results and findings	An article requires concise discussion about the result

Abstract

- **Abstract should be a single paragraph and has a block format; that is, the first line should not be indented**
- **The purpose of this section is to provide a brief and comprehensive summary of the study**
- **It should be accurate (do not include information here that is not in the body of the manuscript)**
- **Self-contained (spell out abbreviations)**
- **Concise (120 words maximum)**
- **It is a good idea to write this section last**
- **It should always be double spaced**
- **The next section begins on a new page**
- **Avoid citing references in the abstract**
- **Use active rather than passive voice (but without personal pronouns)**

- **Use past tense for procedures and present tense for results**
- **The content of the abstract of an empirical study is as follows:**
 - **The problem under investigation, in one sentence if possible**
 - **Information about the participants of the study including their age, sex, ethnic and/or racial group, and proficiency level**
 - **The essential features of the method of study, including instrument, treatment, etc.**
 - **The basic findings, including effect sizes and confidence intervals and/or statistical significance levels**
 - **The conclusions and the implications of the study**

References

- <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/authors-update/eight-top-tips-to-help-you-turn-your-phd-thesis-into-an-article>
- <https://www.ilovephd.com/11-differences-between-a-thesis-and-an-article/>
- https://www.researchgate.net/post/How_to_write_a_good_thesis_abstract