

How to write the Abstract

This section is really easy. It is just a summary of the whole article. The article consists of, ①Introduction, ②Methodology, ③Results, ④Discussion, ⑤Conclusion. Looking at the sample below, can you find and label these five parts?

Abstract

This study investigated the prevalence of migraines in a first year pharmacy class. A migraine is a condition that causes pain on one side of the brain. Many migrainers experience bright colours and are very sensitive to sound and strong lights. Migraines affect about 10% of the population [1], and can cause people to miss work or school.

This study investigated what proportion of a university pharmacy class experience migraines, and what treatments they use. It was found that about 10% of the class are affected (including the teacher), and they most often use Bufferin. Bufferin is used, probably because it is cheap for students.

Comment [ARB1]: ① Start of the Introduction section

Comment [ARB2]: ② Start of the Methodology section.

Comment [ARB3]: ③ Start of the Results section.

Comment [ARB4]: ④ & ⑤ Discussion / Conclusion section. No start indicated.

Your abstract should have the five parts (Introduction, Methodology, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion), or at least one sentence from each. Your abstract should tell a very brief story of your project, so it is easy for the reader to understand your work.

Advice

Get a friend to read your abstract and then tell you what they think your project is about. Choose a friend who is naïve to your project. If they tell you correctly, then your abstract is ok, if they don't seem to understand, then you need to fix things.