

HONORS THESIS ABSTRACT

The thesis abstract is a one to two page summary that is developed after your thesis is complete. The abstract should be informative and written in language that educated academics outside of your discipline could understand. The goal of the abstract is to inform the readers of the following key components:

A. Statement of the Research Problem, Question, or Hypothesis

What is the research problem, question, or hypothesis? Why were you interested in this area of research? Why is this problem, question, or hypothesis important in light of the state of the discipline in this area?

B. Context of the Problem, Question, or Hypothesis

Where does this problem fit in the context of the larger picture of the field? Is there some historical/social/cultural/scientific context that you consider very important for understating this problem, question, or hypothesis?

C. Methods and Procedures

What basic methods and procedures did you use to address or solve the problem, question, or hypothesis? Were the methods conventional to your field? Did you use innovative methodology to solve your problem, question, or hypothesis, or did you use old methods in a new and innovative manner? Did you have problems with the methods you chose? How did you solve these problems in methodology?

D. Findings

What were your findings? What do your results mean? What did you learn? Did your research delve into the problem, question, or hypothesis in sufficient depth? Were the methods appropriate to answering your questions? Did you have difficulties analyzing the information collected? What does your work ultimately mean?

E. Conclusions

How do your results compare or contrast to other results in the field? What did you learn from your research? What is the next step in this research? Do you have suggestions for future research?