

Sure, looking at what to do is helpful, but sometimes looking at what not to do can be of even greater help. So, what shouldn't you do while writing abstracts?

The following items presume that you know some facts about abstracts: Abstracts are written to allow readers who are doing research in a specialized subject area to decide whether a particular article is worth reading. So the readers know the basics of the subject area and only need summary.

To figure out why your teacher wants you to write an abstract, you'll need to read the assignment prompt and/or ask your teacher.

Avoid trying to catch your reader's attention or practice any of the hooks that you might use in an introduction.

**A** Don't withhold your main conclusions. Abstracts *are* plot spoilers; don't try to save your most important results and conclusions for later.

Don't try to make your most important results and conclusions sexy; save that for the people who read your whole papers.

Don't practice persuasive rhetoric yn