

Abstracts vs Introductions

- An abstract provides a concise summary of the entire paper, including its main points and conclusions, while an introduction engages the reader by offering background information and setting up the paper's thesis and structure.

Abstract: A brief summary of the paper, outlining the topic, purpose, main points, and conclusions. Typically one paragraph, double-spaced.	Introduction: The opening section that provides background information, introduces the thesis or main argument, and outlines the paper's structure.
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Abstract

- An abstract acts as a summary for the reader, similar to the back cover of a book. It helps readers decide whether they want to read the full work. An abstract provides a clear and concise summary of all sections of the document, including conclusions.
- Summarizes the entire document, including conclusions.
- Includes relevant keywords in paragraphs and as a list at the end.
- Usually no more than 250 words in length.
- Should be formatted according to APA guidelines, with "Abstract" centered and bolded at the top.
- Must be double-spaced and include a page header.
- If you are unsure, consult your professor for their individual preferences and requirements!

Introduction

- An introduction serves to engage the reader by providing background information and explaining the relevance of the topic. It offers more details than an abstract and sets the stage for the rest of the paper.
- Captures the reader's attention with a compelling opening.
- Provides in-depth background information on the topic.
- Explains the significance and purpose of the study.
- Introduces the content without discussing results or conclusions.
- Length varies depending on the document's length.
- Unlike an abstract, the introduction is not a summary but rather a roadmap that guides the reader into the discussion.



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References

Saybrook University. (2025). *Introduction vs. Abstract*.

<https://community.saybrook.edu/writingcenter/Pages/introduction-vs-abstract.aspx>

APSU Writing Center. (2024). *APA Style 7th Edition*.

<https://www.apsu.edu/writingcenter/writing-resources/APA-Style-7th-Packet-2024.pdf>