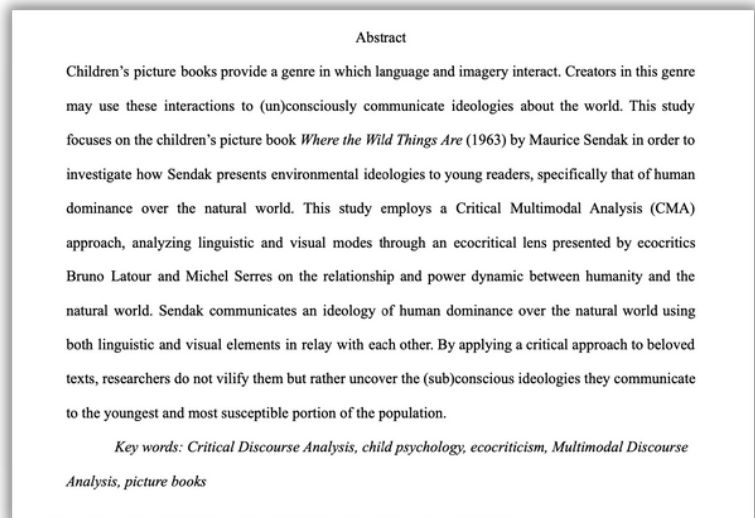


Writing an Abstract

What is an abstract?

An abstract is a short, concise summary included at the beginning of a research paper. It is approximately 150-250 words in length and briefly highlights all of the components of a piece of research, such as purpose and findings. Abstracts are often, though not always, followed by a list of keywords.



Components

Purpose

- Why is this research important? Why should the audience care about it?

Problem

- What problem does this research attempt to solve? Is it filling a gap in existing research? What is your thesis, argument, or hypothesis?

Methodology

- What methods, approaches, or evidence did you use to address the problem, investigate the claim, or prove/disprove the hypothesis?

Results

- What were your findings? Was there any statistical data, or is the data of a more qualitative nature?

Discussion & Implications

- How should the audience interpret these findings? How does this research contribute to the overall body of knowledge in your field? What should future research consider?