

IAFOR Webinar Series

Episode 2:

Writing an Abstract for Maximum Impact

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Abstract-Specific Questions

What is a multimedia abstract?

We assume that:

1. It would apply to a multimedia journal and that journal would need to be consulted.
2. It is an abstract that includes multimedia, e.g., <https://www.elsevier.com/authors/tools-and-resources/visual-abstract>

Could you give the main principles for the abstract of a literature paper?

In terms of a literature paper, you would need to check the requirements of a literature journal. The IAFOR journal website is <https://iafor.org/journal/iafor-journal-of-literature-and-librarianship/>. If this is in reference to a literature review style paper for education, you would follow the same structure as for a research article.

It depends on the requirements of the journal. In general, and although it is written as a single paragraph, the abstract should summarize information about all sections of your study, including your thesis, goals, approach, main findings, and conclusions.

Make sure you include the following elements in your abstract:

Statement of purpose: Why did you choose to conduct this study? Why is the problem significant? What gap exists in previous literature that your research aims to fill?

Methods or approach: What did you do to get your results? How did you do it? (For instance, mention whether you have conducted interviews, analyzed novels or paintings, etc.)

Results: What did you learn or find as a result of conducting these procedures?

Conclusions: How are your findings significant? What are the larger implications of your findings, and how do they relate to the gap in research that you have identified?

Do we include the recommendations in the abstract for education? Are they compulsory?

Recommendations would not be compulsory but advisable to show the significance of the work for future research.

Most abstracts are informative. Informative abstracts act as substitutes for the actual papers.

An informative abstract includes the information that can be found in a descriptive abstract [purpose, methods, scope] but it also includes the results and conclusions of the research and the

recommendations of the author.

Could you show a model abstract and its corresponding keywords?

A model abstract does not really exist as explained in the webinar. However, you should check issues of whatever journal that you are submitting to so that you can see the different ways in which this is done.

What is meant by an extended abstract?

Please check the recording. This is when a conference has many submissions and wants more detail on all of the usual areas of an abstract. An example is found through this link:

<https://www.utm.my/ipsb/files/2017/05/template-for-extended-abstract-IPSB-2017.pdf>

Should limitations and suggestions regarding the study be included in the abstract?

Limitations are not usually in an abstract. Suggestions for further research are not compulsory but can be important (see response to recommendations)

Should the abstract be totally original and not be part of whole research paper?

Yes. It is not good practice to have the abstract as part of your paper. Copying and pasting parts of the paper in the abstract should be avoided.

What if the abstract has been published and the paper for that abstract will be published later? Will there be plagiarism issue?

Yes. If an abstract is published then you would need to re-work an abstract for a paper.

What is the "IAFOR Standard" in abstract writing?

This is explained on the author guideline webpage.

I want to publish a paper I had previously presented at a conference. The abstract book was published but not the paper. While submitting, can I mention that the paper was presented at a conference earlier or will there be any plagiarism issue?

You should write a new abstract and also mention that you have presented the information at a conference. There is a place for this on our submission form.

How is a descriptive abstract written?

This generally describes the major points of the project to the reader. It includes the background, purpose and focus of the article and rarely discusses methods, results or conclusions.

More General Questions

Can we write phrases in scientific research papers?

All papers should be written in full sentences including the abstract.

What journal of IAFOR focuses on mathematics or math related topics?

There is not a Mathematics journal. Mathematics education would be part of the Studies in Education issue of the IAFOR Journal of Education.

May I consult my paper with any of IAFOR reviewers before uploading to the website?

We do not offer a pre-review service. For any reviewers to pre-review and make suggestions would mean that they would have to then recuse themselves from reviewing for that issue.

Can I get a copy of the recording?

The recording will be online on the IAFOR website. We do not make it downloadable as we hold copyright and wish to maintain the intellectual property. It is freely available to view.

Can I be sent a copy of the slides?

The slides can be paused on the recording should you wish to note anything. Please see response to question about obtaining the recording.

What is the rank of IAFOR Journals?

The information regarding how to check the IAFOR Journal of Education can be found in the journal blog: <https://iafor.org/indexing-scopus-iafor-journal-of-education/>.

How can I collaborate and publish in Scopus & ISI publications?

This is an area where you need to talk with co-researchers as to how you wish to publish. The method of submission is the same for all blind peer-review journals.

I would like a little more input in terms of becoming a more critical/capable reviewer for your journals.

We hope to run a webinar on being a reviewer later in the webinar list.

May I consult about my paper with any of IAFOR reviewers before uploading to the website?

We do not offer a pre-review service. For any reviewers to pre-review and make suggestions would mean that they would have to then recuse themselves from reviewing for that issue.

Why is it difficult to be accepted to publish in the *IAFOR Journal Education*?

It is no more difficult to be published in the *IAFOR Journal of Education* than other peer reviewed journals. Many have a lower acceptance rate. The vast majority of papers rejected are because of plagiarism, poor academic expression, ignoring the style guide, or not meeting the scope/theme of a particular issue. It can also be because there is not an extensive, contemporary literature review or because the ethical considerations of the research have not been discussed.