

## Abstract

According to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA), an abstract is “a brief, comprehensive summary of the contents of the paper.” (2020, p. 38). An abstract is generally no more than 250 words (APA, 2020). The first line of the abstract is not indented, and an abstract may be written as a single paragraph or in a structured format. A structured abstract is also a single paragraph with labels inserted to identify sections (APA, 2020). Because an abstract is not always required for student papers, review the assignment instructions and adhere to your instructor’s requirements.

Typically, the abstract is required only for publication. Check with your instructor regarding the preference for using an abstract. Doctoral students may be asked to use an abstract. If required for a paper, the abstract would appear on page 2, just after the title page. The body of the paper would then begin on page 3. Use the insert page break feature in MS Word® to begin the next page.