

UPGRADE STUDY ADVICE

Abstract DIY

The abstract is the most important 200-300 words you write in your whole project, dissertation or thesis. Write it last – when you have completed the dissertation and can look back and see the whole.

Write one or two short sentences on each of the following key phases of your research:

1	Your aim or research question	... and why your research was needed – the context
2	How you did it	Your approach and methods
3	What you found	What your research shows or suggests
4	Conclusions	The take-away point(s): why it matters / implications (for practice, understanding, knowledge)

Adapted from

Williams K, Bethell E, Lawton J, Parfitt-Brown C, Richardson M and Rowe V (2011). *Completing your PhD*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Then rewrite it either as four short paragraphs or as one long paragraph, depending on the norms in your discipline.

Check it and polish it – it's your shop window!

See also Williams K (2013). *Planning your dissertation*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan - Part 5 What's in a dissertation? for outlines of abstracts of student dissertations in a range of subjects.