

Abstract Guidelines - Research Critiques

The Research Critique involves critique of one research article and is designed to develop professional writing and critical thinking skills. Submissions in this category are limited to succinct critiques of an original research scholarly article on any topic within the fields of exercise science, kinesiology, health and wellness, physical education, sport, nutrition, dance, and recreation. The article must detail a single research study. Research reviews are not appropriate articles for this type of presentation.

The article you select should include most if not all of the following elements:

- Purpose/objective statement
- Research or statistical hypotheses
- Description of subject sample population
- Description of research methods such as protocols, equipment, and data collection techniques
- Description of data and/or statistical analyses
- Results from analyses
- Discussion of major findings

Your abstract (**250 word maximum**) should:

- Identify important information within the article
- Formulate an original and insightful critique
- Demonstrate professional writing mechanics
- Adhere to content requirements

Abstract Content

- Succinctly paraphrase the purpose statement(s) listed in the critiqued article. One to two introductory sentences may be used to provide supporting background information for the purpose statement(s). You need to provide an in-text citation for your referenced article following your purpose statement.
- Identify major methodological points from the critiqued article. These may include participant information, equipment and testing procedures, research design, or statistical analysis. Space is limited, so present only what is most relevant to the article critique.
- Synthesize and/or summarize major points from the results and discussion sections in the critiqued article.
- Provide your critical thoughts on the article. They could address things such as: the major findings/conclusions of the study, a strength or benefit of the study/results/research design, a limitation of the study/results/research design. This is perhaps the most important part of the abstract because it portrays your critical thinking skills.

Abstract Guidelines - Literature Reviews

The literature review is designed to further develop professional writing and critical thinking skills, while introducing the need to synthesize information from multiple sources. Submissions in this category are limited to succinct reviews of scholarly research on any topic within the fields of exercise science, kinesiology, health and wellness, physical education, sport, nutrition, dance, and recreation. Three to five original research articles must be utilized that review the literature on the topic selected.

The articles you select should include most if not all of the following elements:

- Purpose/objective statement
- Research or statistical hypotheses
- Description of subject sample population
- Description of research methods such as protocols, equipment, and data collection techniques
- Description of data and/or statistical analyses
- Results from analyses
- Discussion of major findings

Your abstract (**250 word maximum**) should:

- Identify important information from multiple articles
- Synthesize information and major points relevant to the topic
- Demonstrate professional writing mechanics
- Adhere to content requirements

Abstract Content

- Succinctly present major points, arguments, or research findings related to the topic.
- Synthesize conclusions from the referenced research articles.
- Describe the extent to which the articles you reviewed were in agreement or presented conflicting perspectives.
- Provide information on the relevance of the information across the articles from the referenced research articles in this section.

Abstract Guidelines - Original Research

Presentation of original work is designed to further develop and integrate practical research and professional writing skills. Submissions in this category must be based on original research conducted by the student (although the research presented may be part of a larger project with other faculty or students).

Any original research relevant to exercise science, kinesiology, health and wellness, physical education, sport psychology, nutrition, dance, and recreation may be proposed for presentation. The options are wide ranging. Preferably, the research will have a specific focus.

Your abstract (**250 word maximum**) should:

- Clearly communicate the purpose and rationale for undertaking the research
- Succinctly describe the research methods employed
- Highlight research findings
- Convey conclusion(s)
- Demonstrate professional writing mechanics
- Adhere to content requirements

Abstract Content

- Purpose: Succinctly introduce the research question and purpose(s) of the research.
- Methods: Identify the major methodological aspects of the study.
- Results: Primary statistical results should be summarized.
- Conclusions: Present main conclusion and relevance of the primary findings.

Abstract Guidelines - Original Project

Presentation of original work is designed to further develop and integrate practical application of knowledge and professional writing skills. Submissions in this category must be based on original work conducted by the student (although the focus of the proposed presentation may be part of a larger project with other faculty or students).

Any original work relevant to the fields of exercise science, kinesiology, health and wellness, physical education, sport psychology, nutrition, dance, and recreation may be proposed for presentation. Preferably, the project will have a specific focus. Examples:

- Development of a fitness regimen focused around aquatic exercises for a specific population
- Development of a wellness program for a geriatric population
- Development of a sport psychology program with activities, techniques, and assessments to help basketball players cope with frustration after missed shots in a competitive setting
- Development of a plan to develop a community pathway with access over streams for a recently donated public use site

Your abstract (**250 word maximum**) should:

- Clearly communicate the purpose and rationale for undertaking the project
- Document the process used to complete the project
- Convey the project outcomes
- Demonstrate professional writing mechanics
- Adhere to content requirements

Abstract Content

- Succinctly introduce the purpose, background information, and rationale for the project.
- Identify the major aspects or tasks involved with the creation and completion of the project.
- Summarize primary outcome(s) of the project.
- Convey the relevance of the project and its outcomes.