

Final Research Project

Spring 2007

The Objectives

As listed in the syllabus, the final research project involves writing three (3) abstracts of studies on mass communication effects which have been published in reputable, refereed scholarly journals. In essence, this is a library assignment (Oh my gawd!).

You are to use library resources found in our UB University Libraries or the National Library for this quest. The appropriate type of articles you should locate need to be along the lines of the references at the end of each chapter in the Sparks textbook.

For your three abstracts, you may choose to deal with one or more topics as covered in our syllabus. Each abstract that you write must not exceed 750 words in length. The actual full text article needs to be attached to each abstract before submission.

What is an Abstract?

An abstract is a standalone statement that briefly conveys the essential information of a longer piece of writing, be it a paper, article, document or book. It presents the objective, the methods, the results, and the conclusions of a research project. It has a straightforward, non-repetitive style of writing.

An abstract often serves as the only means by which a reader / researcher determines the kind of information a paper contains. Often times a reader / researcher makes a decision whether or not to read the full paper based on the abstract alone. Since there is this need for self-contained compactness, an abstract must convey the essential information from a paper. As such, the abstract should be sharp enough to describe the objective, methods, results and conclusions in one quick glance.

Requirements

1. Type your name, student number and date on the left hand side of the first page.
2. In the next line, type the complete bibliographic citation in APA format.
3. Give one line spacing, then begin writing your abstract in a concise manner.

Deadlines

Paper abstracts are to be submitted in class on 19th March, 2nd April and 16th April (this year).