Abstract writing & Review

OUTLINE

Rationale

Purpose

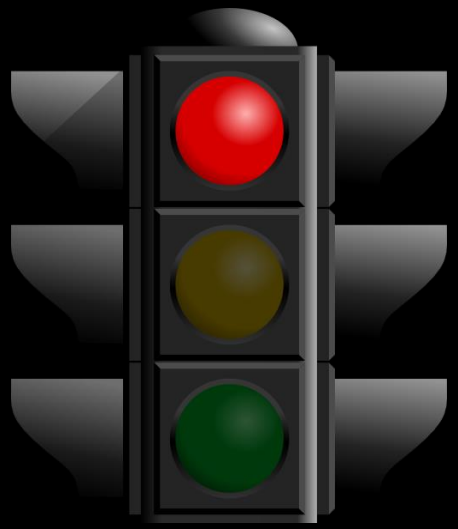
Structure
Content

Types

Common
Errors

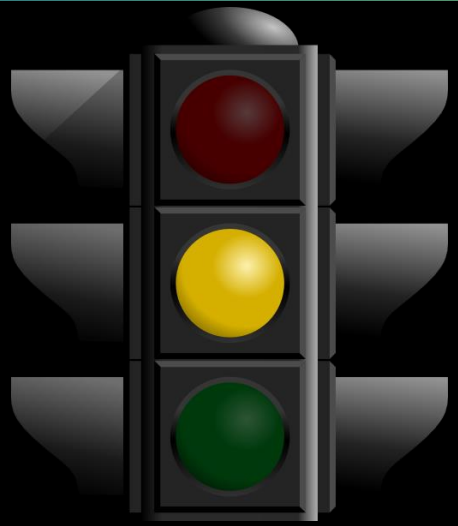
Focus for
reviewers

RATIONALE



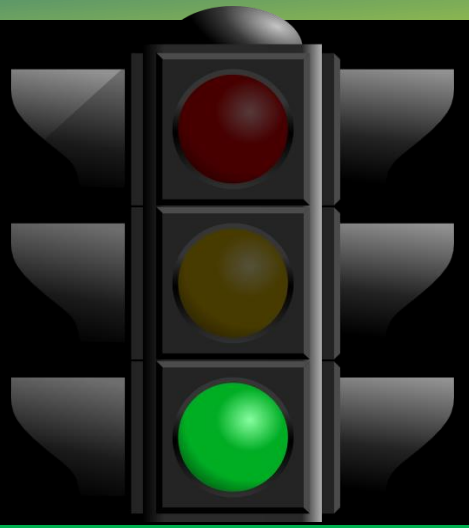
CHALLENGE

Writing & Reviewing Abstracts



SOLUTION

Discuss common approach

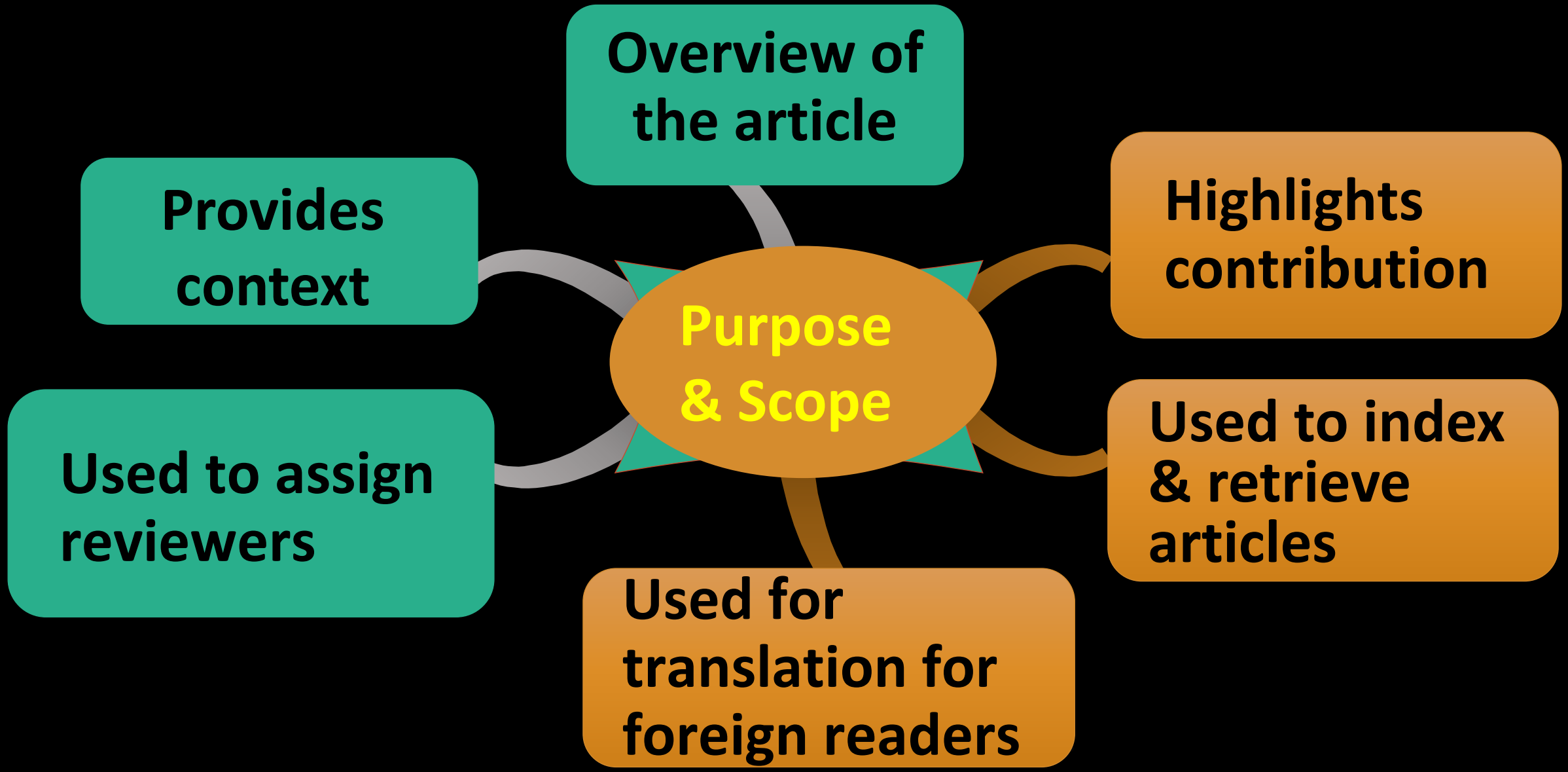


IMPACT

Successful Conference & Publishing in Journals

DEMYSTIFYING RESEARCH

PURPOSE OF ABSTRACT



PURPOSE

Helps reader decide whether to read the article (ie, is this important to me?)

Directs readers' attention to the highlights of the article

Provides reminders for readers after they've read the article

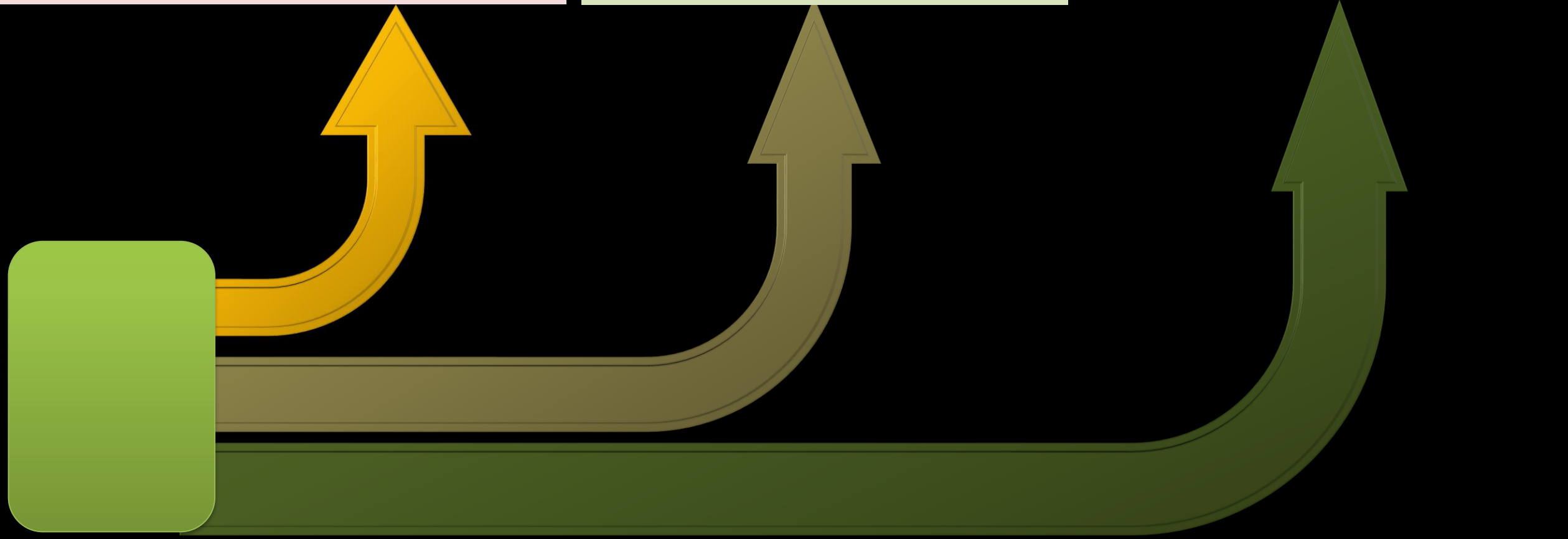
Reflects on the professionalism & integrity of the work

Characteristics of a good abstract

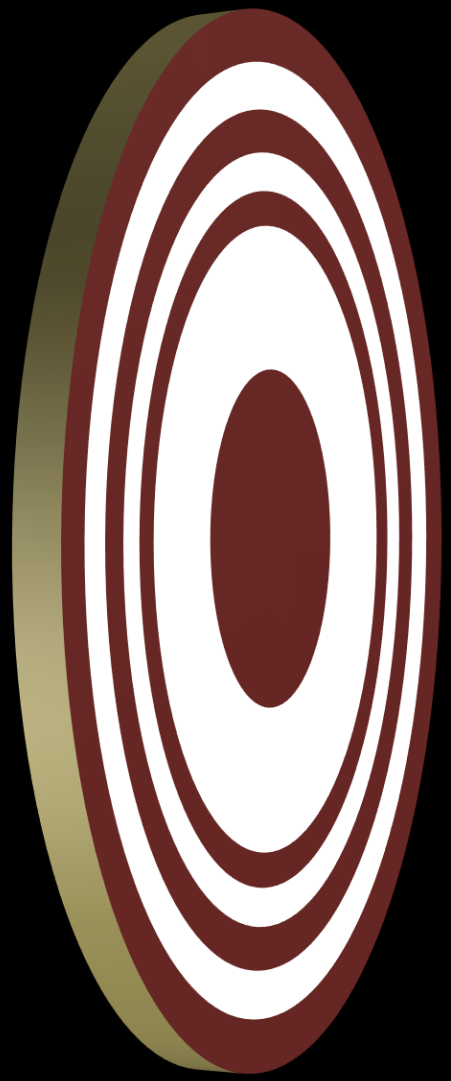
Accurate, coherent, & readable

Concise, specific & selective

Self-contained, ie, stand alone



Structuring an Abstract



Where? LOCATE: in the context of the discourse community or field in general

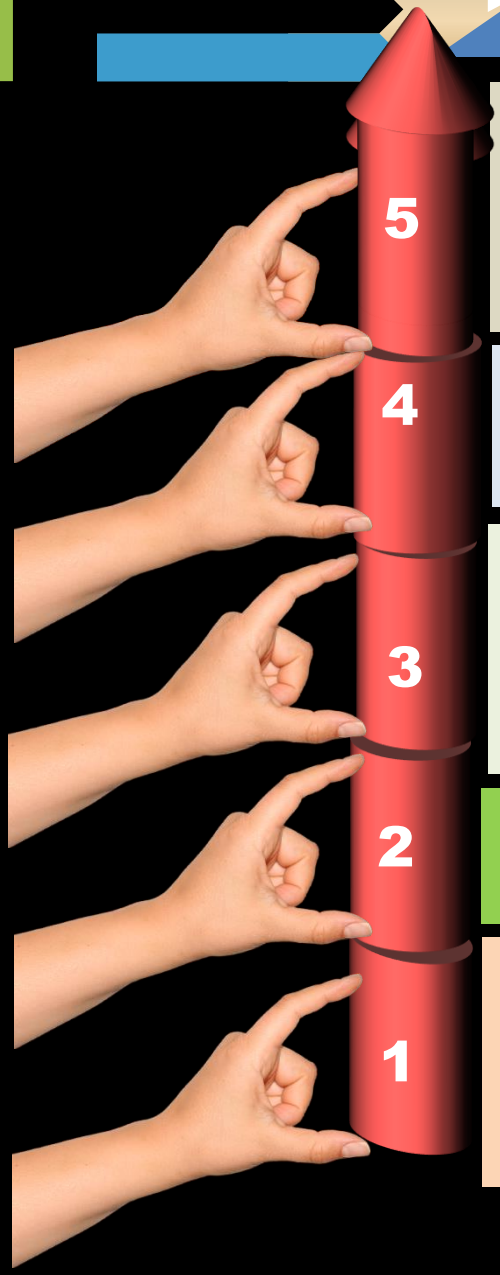
Why? FOCUS: Questions, issues, challenge, gap explored, examined or investigated

How? ANCHOR: Outline methodology for credibility, trustworthy & replicability

What? REPORT: Key findings or evidence to inform argument that follows

So What? ARGUE: Theorize, extrapolate, speculate, recommend, demonstrate contribution

EXAMPLE



ARGUE: The paper argues that… & concludes by suggesting that….

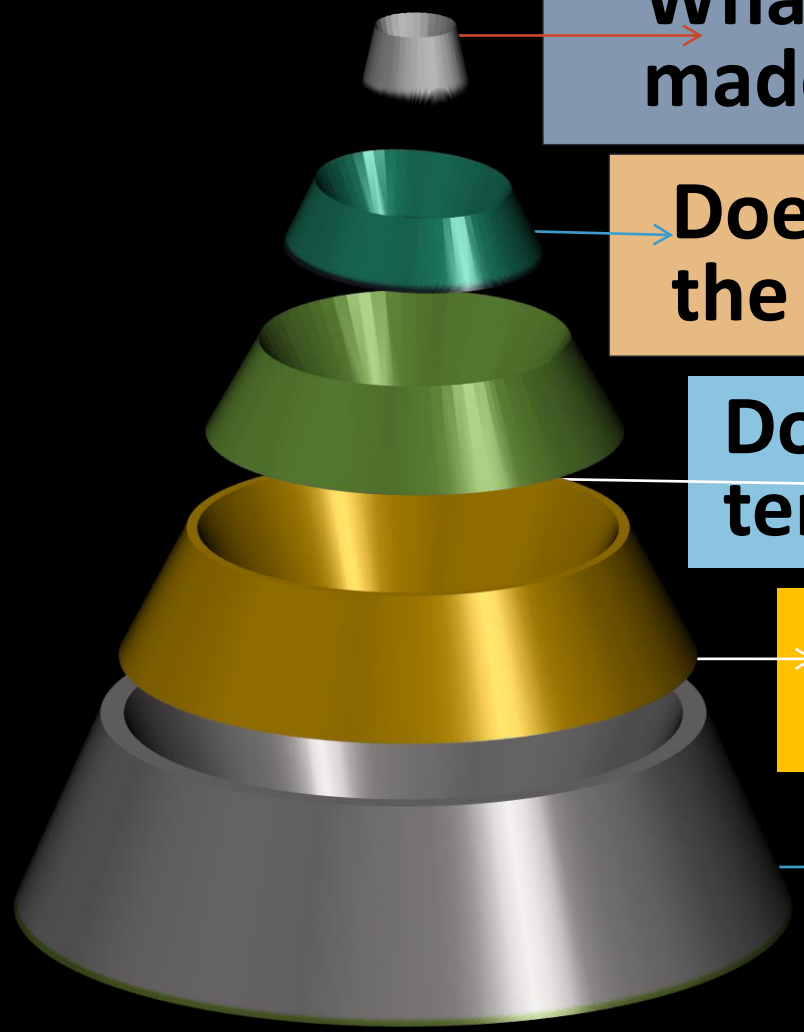
REPORT: Findings reveal that…

ANCHOR: We draw on findings from a study of… which used… to show that…

FOCUS: This paper focusses on ….

LOCATE: Blended learning has become a significant issue (in/for)…

FOCUS FOR REVIEWERS



What is the argument? Is it clear &/or can it be made stronger?

Does it report the findings/evidence & provide the key to the argument that follows?

Does the abstract anchor the research that, in terms of its methods & design?

Has the abstract focused the topic of the paper & identified the research conducted?

How well is the work located in the discipline/policy/practice issues/problems

Is the abstract coherent with connections between each of them?

TYPES OF ABSTRACTS

Descriptive

Indicative

Informative

Extended

Structured

Executive Summary

Descriptive "Pap" Abstracts

Indicate the scope of the findings	Contain little substantive information	Emphasize the report itself, not its contents

"A study was undertaken, the data were accumulated, & some interesting observations were made. Our conclusions are given."

Example of Descriptive Abstracts

Our report describes a novel agricultural approach to improve crop yield & sustainability. We highlight key techniques & strategies employed in this innovative method. Furthermore, we discuss the potential benefits of adopting this approach. The abstract offers a glimpse into the transformative potential of this agric approach in addressing current challenges & fostering sustainable food production.

Indicative Abstracts – Review Articles

State objective of review	Give succinct summary of the data sources	Specify criteria used to select studies	Describe guidelines used for abstracting & assessing data quality	State main results of review & methods used to obtain them

State conclusions & potential applications of the results

Example of Indicative Abstracts

Objective —To review the literature relating to the effectiveness of education strategies designed to change teacher performance & learning outcomes.

Data Sources—We searched ERIC, NTIS, the Research & Development Resource Base in Education, & other relevant data sources from 2001 to 2022, using teacher education & related terms as keywords. We searched e-journals & the bibliographies of other review articles & called on the opinions of reknowned experts.

Informative Abstracts

State briefly the content of the paper

Follow the sequence of the article: Intro, Method, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, Implications

Include the experimental approach, & independent & dependent variables

Represent each section of the paper by at least one sentence in the abstract

Example of Informative Abstracts

Purpose: The paper presents an evidence-based …

Design/methodology/approach: A longitudinal …

Findings: The findings demonstrate …..

Research implications: The innovative ….

Social Implications: The applicability …..

Practical implications: Careful design ..

Originality/value: The framework & the ….

Limitations: The …