



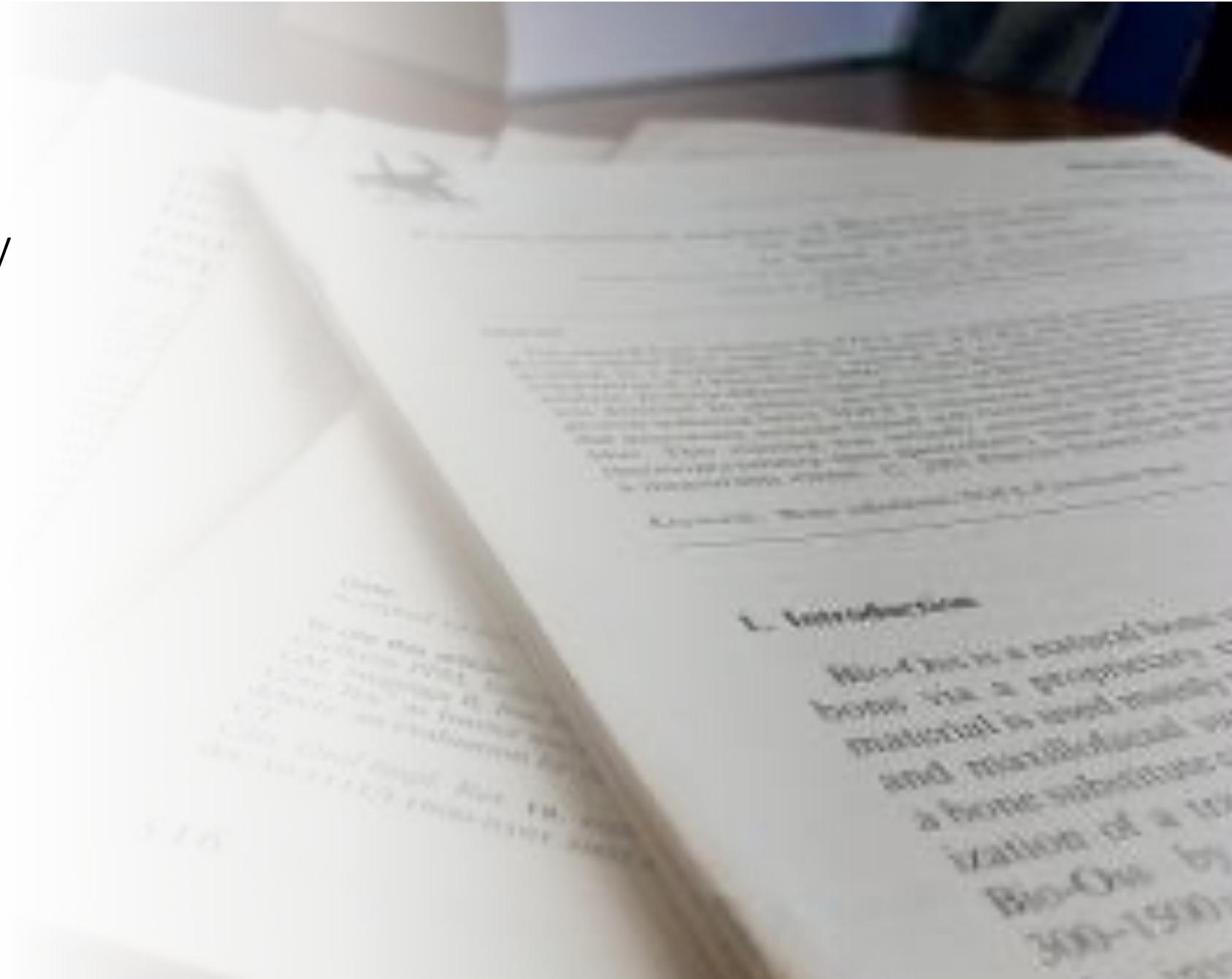
Journal article writing 2

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Toroa.Talk 3.2



What will talk about today

- What sort of paper should I write?
- How to write an abstract
- How to write a title
- How to choose your keywords
- Some basics of good writing





Deciding on your approach

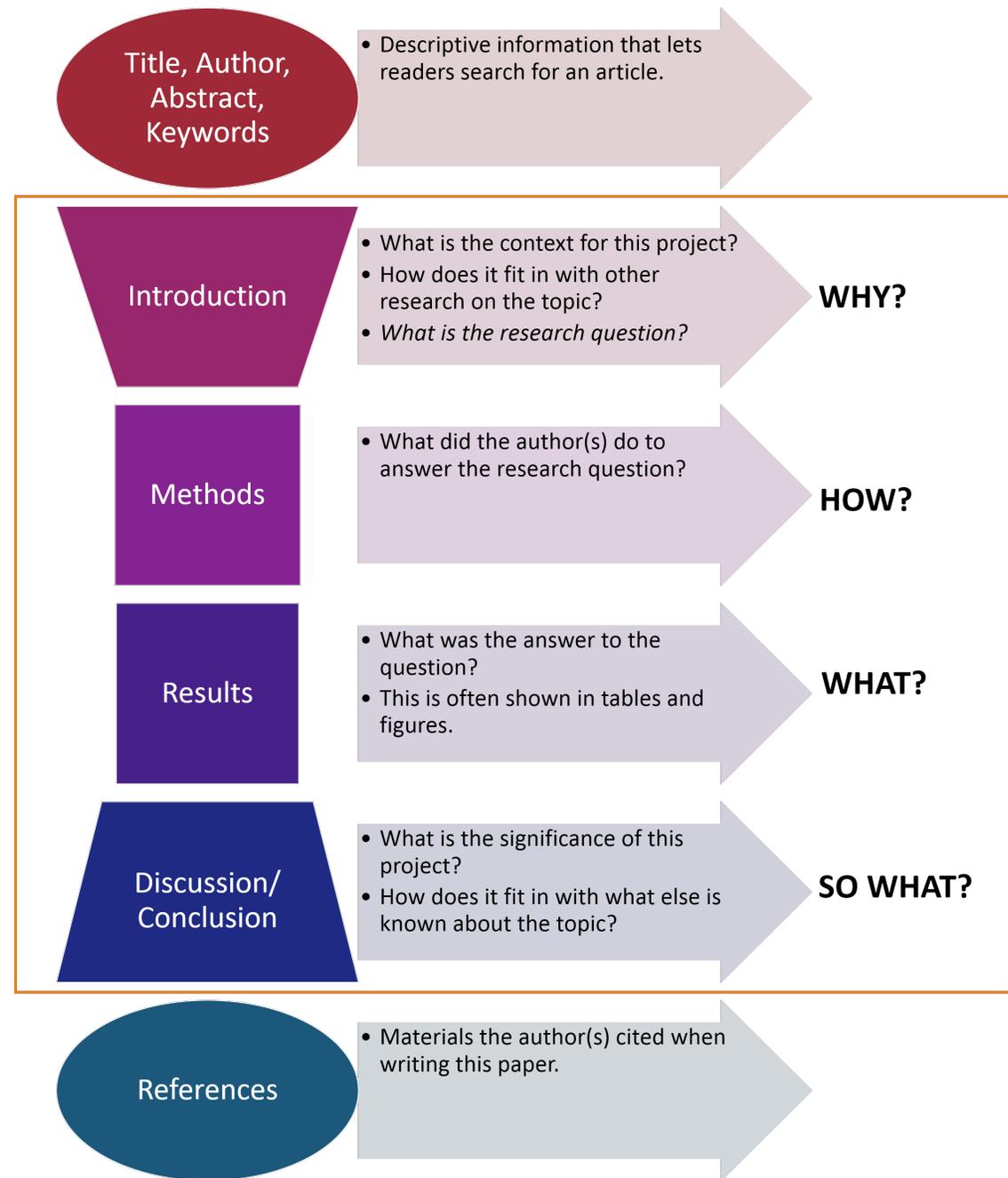
- Is it data driven?
 - Have you some research you wish to present?
 - Need to describe the study, how it was conducted and the significance of the results.
- Is it a methods paper?
 - Do you wish to introduce a new method?
 - Need to explain what it is, how it works and what it's good for
 - And how it's different
- Is it a theory paper?
 - Do you wish to refine or extend existing theory?
 - Critique an existing theory?
 - Argue for new theory?



Analyse the writing of the journals you are targetting

- Scan the abstracts
- Which words/phrases commonly used?
- Scan other sections: how are they structured?
- Select two types of paper:
 - one that's the type of paper you can use as a model for yours
 - one that you can cite in your paper.

Sections of a journal article



The abstract: Definition

An abstract summarises, in one paragraph of approx. 300 words, the main aspects of the article:

1. the overall purpose of the study
2. its basic design
3. the major findings
4. a brief summary of the conclusions.



Qualities of an abstract

Uses the article's structure

- –Reports the purpose, method, findings, conclusions of the paper.

It flows logically

- –Provides logical connections between the parts of the abstract.

Adds nothing new

- –Summarizes the paper - doesn't add any new material.

On the Relationship between Medical Ethics and Law

Iain Cunningham

Medical Law Review, Volume 26, Issue 2, Spring 2018, Pages 225–245, <https://doi.org/10.1093/medlaw/fwx064>

Published: 17 January 2018



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ABSTRACT

In his comments on *Bland*, Lord Justice Hoffmann stated that 'I would expect medical ethics to be formed by the law rather than the reverse'. But what we expect, and what they have a right to expect, are different things; I shall use Hoffmann LJ's statement as a way into looking at the relationship between ethics and law, and argue that it is partially correct insofar as that it makes a prediction about that relationship. Professional ethics and codes of ethics are shaped by law; but law is shaped by those codes to some extent, and both are influenced by 'philosophical ethics'. As a normative claim, Hoffmann LJ's statement is more compelling, but he also distinguished between (medical

“The growing economic resemblance of spouses has contributed to rising inequality by increasing the number of couples in which there are two high- or two low-earning partners. The dominant explanation for this trend is increased assortative mating. Previous research has primarily relied on cross-sectional data and thus has been unable to disentangle changes in assortative mating from changes in the division of spouses’ paid labor—a potentially key mechanism given the dramatic rise in wives’ labor supply. We use data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) to decompose the increase in the correlation between spouses’ earnings and its contribution to inequality between 1970 and 2013 into parts due to (a) changes in assortative mating, and (b) changes in the division of paid labor. Contrary to what has often been assumed, the rise of economic homogamy and its contribution to inequality is largely attributable to changes in the division of paid labor rather than changes in sorting on earnings or earnings potential. Our findings indicate that the rise of economic homogamy cannot be explained by hypotheses centered on meeting and matching opportunities, and they show where in this process inequality is generated and where it is not.”

The first sentence introduces the **topic** under study (the “economic resemblance of spouses”). This sentence also implies the **question** underlying this research study: what are the various causes—and the interrelationships among them—for this trend?

These next two sentences explain what **previous research** has demonstrated. By pointing out the limitations in the methods that were used in previous studies, they also provide a **rationale** for new research.

The data, research and analytical **methods** used in this new study.

The major **findings** from and **implications** and **significance** of this study.

[From: The Writing Center, Univ of Wisconsin](#)

“From the mid-1970s through the mid-1980s, a network of young urban migrant men created an underground pulp fiction publishing industry in the city of Dar es Salaam. As texts that were produced in the underground economy of a city whose trajectory was increasingly charted outside of formalized planning and investment, these novellas reveal more than their narrative content alone. These texts were active components in the urban social worlds of the young men who produced them. They reveal a mode of urbanism otherwise obscured by narratives of decolonization, in which urban belonging was constituted less by national citizenship than by the construction of social networks, economic connections, and the crafting of reputations. This article argues that pulp fiction novellas of socialist era Dar es Salaam are artifacts of emergent forms of male sociability and mobility. In printing fictional stories about urban life on pilfered paper and ink, and distributing their texts through informal channels, these writers not only described urban communities, reputations, and networks, but also actually created them.” (p. 210)

The first sentence introduces the **context** for this research and announces the **topic** under study.

The remaining sentences in this abstract interweave other essential information for an abstract for this article. The implied **research questions**: What do these texts mean? What is their historical and cultural significance, produced at this time, in this location, by these authors? The **argument** and the **significance** of this analysis in microcosm: these texts “reveal a mode or urbanism otherwise obscured . . .”; and “This article argues that pulp fiction novellas. . .” This section also implies what **previous historical research** has obscured. And through the details in its argumentative claims, this section of the abstract implies the kinds of **methods** the author has used to interpret the novellas and the concepts under study (e.g., male sociability and mobility, urban communities, reputations, network. . .).

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Writing

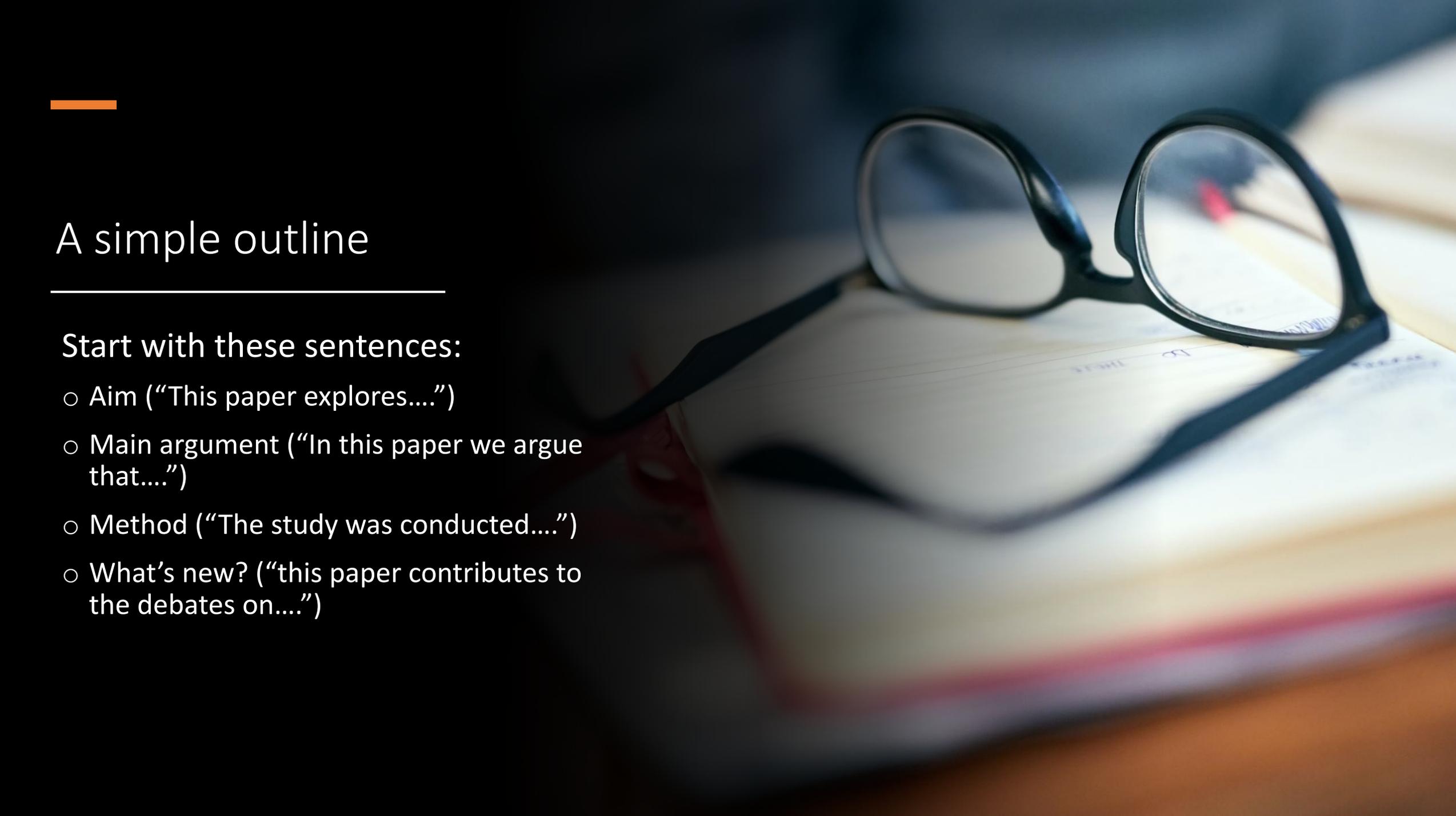
This article analyses two interactions between journalists and their public relations sources captured on video during ethnographic fieldwork in newsrooms in New Zealand. Through analysis of verbal and non-verbal actions, the paper demonstrates the mixture of resentment, distrust and need that characterises journalists' relations with public relations practitioners (PRPs). It highlights journalists' increasing difficulties in accessing information, even in publicly funded organisations, without going through public relations spokespeople. We already know this is problematic for the quality of the news product. However, this research provides new evidence that it may also be problematic at an individual level for journalists and PRPs, requiring them to adopt a working mode of opacity and duplicity in their dealings. The paper provides empirical evidence of the practice of what a PRP told the researcher was "telling the truth to journalists, but telling it rather creatively", and how it manifests in actual interactions, both written and verbal.

Aim

Method

Previous research

Main argument



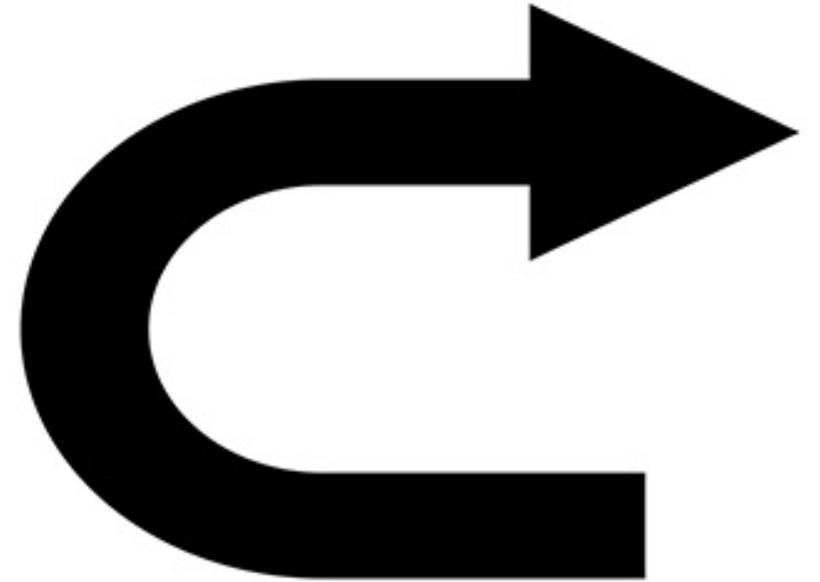
A simple outline

Start with these sentences:

- Aim (“This paper explores....”)
- Main argument (“In this paper we argue that....”)
- Method (“The study was conducted....”)
- What’s new? (“this paper contributes to the debates on....”)

Writing = reverse outlining

- Group the main ideas of each section of the paper into a single sentence
- You should end up up with five-six sentences aligned to the:
 - Purpose
 - Context
 - Methods
 - Findings
 - Discussion-Conclusion



The power of verbs

- Examines/analyses/explores
- Outlines/reports on
- Justifies
- Recommends
- Compares
- Contrasts
- Discusses
- Demonstrates/shows/illustrates/
highlights
- Refutes



Don't Include

- Lengthy background information
- Abbreviations, jargon or terms that may be confusing to the reader
- Any sort of image, illustration, figure or table
- The title of the paper
- Normally don't include references



A good title

- Condenses the paper's content in a few words
- Captures the readers' attention
- Differentiates the paper from other papers of the same subject area
- It is the first thing journal editors and reviewers see



Writing a good journal article title

- Keep it simple, short and attractive
- Approx. 10 – 12 words long
- Include all essential information about your paper
- The title should include relevant descriptive keywords
- Never use a full-stop at the end of the title

- **Avoid:** Effects of social media advertising on schoolchildren: study of multicentre mixed group
- **Better:** Interactional effects of social media advertising on schoolchildren: an ethnographic study



Titles

Five steps

1. Ask yourself these questions
 - What is my paper about
 - What design did I use
 - Who or what did I study
 - What were the results
2. List keywords from your answers in step one
 - Social media advertising
 - Ethnography
 - Schoolchildren in three schools in Auckland
 - There was an interactional effect
3. Use these keywords to create a sentence
 - *This study is an ethnographic study that investigates whether social media advertising aimed at children and seen by schoolchildren in three schools in Auckland had an interactional effect; it reports that it had an isolating effect*



Titles

Five steps

4. Create a working title

- Delete all repetitive or unnecessary words from the sentence
- *This study is an ethnographic study that investigates whether social media advertising aimed at children and seen by schoolchildren in three schools in Auckland had an interactional effect; it reports that it had an isolating effect*
- *Word count - 16*

5. Create a final title

- Start polishing. Delete all information that is not essential
- *An ethnographic study of social media advertising aimed at schoolchildren had an interactional effect*
- Turn it around for more effect:
- *Interactional effects of social media advertising on schoolchildren: an ethnographic study*
- *Word count - 10*

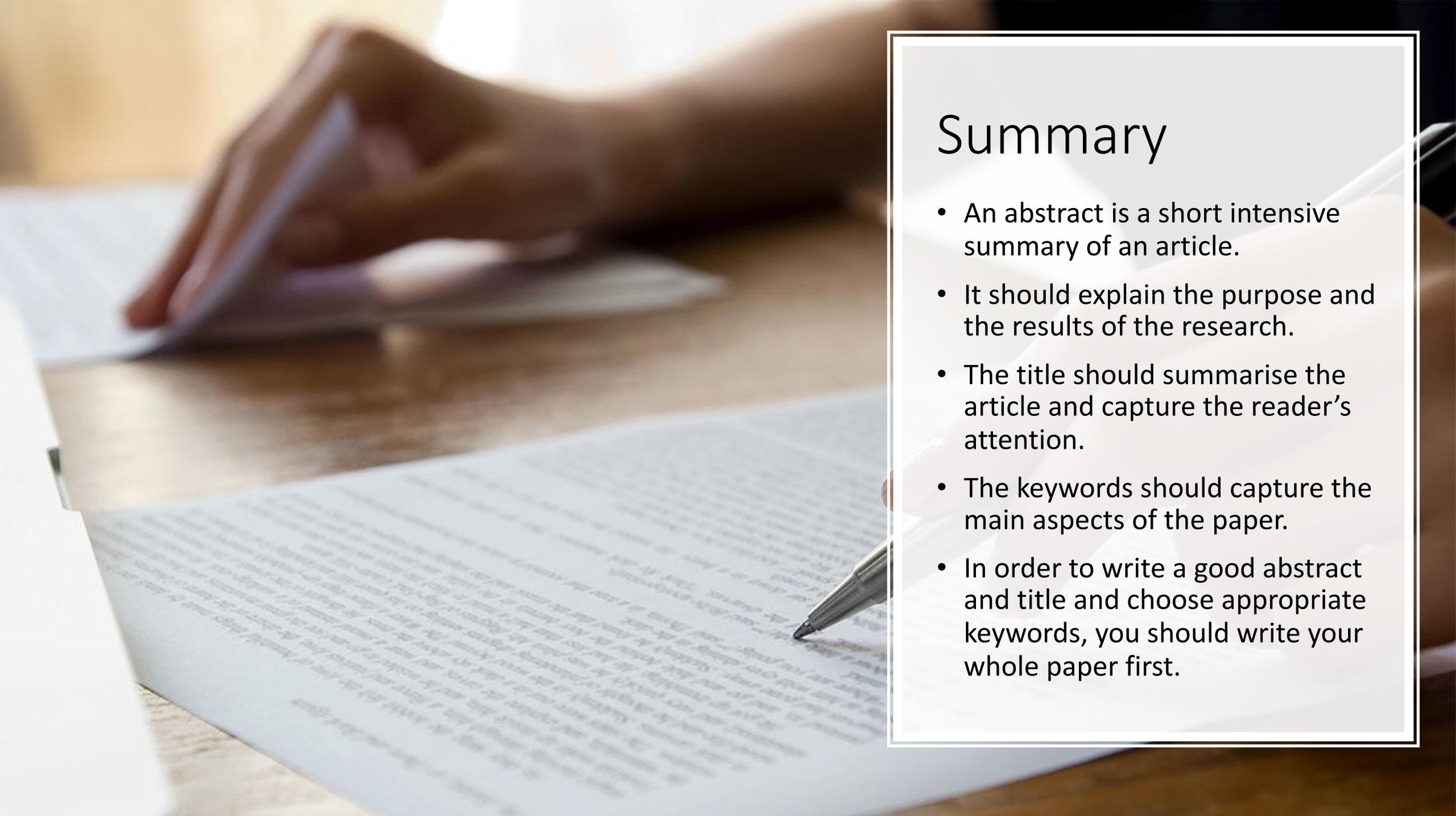


Keywords



- Read the paper and list down terms used repeatedly
- Include main topic areas
- Include also key terms such as methods and theories used
- Think whether variants of terms need to be included
- Try to include between three and five keywords, although there is no set limit.





Summary

- An abstract is a short intensive summary of an article.
- It should explain the purpose and the results of the research.
- The title should summarise the article and capture the reader's attention.
- The keywords should capture the main aspects of the paper.
- In order to write a good abstract and title and choose appropriate keywords, you should write your whole paper first.