



## MODULE 7: The ABSTRACT

We have come full circle. We started with an overview of action research in general, and now we are ending with a brief review of your action research in particular. This module is about synopsis. As you compose your abstract, consider the words of Robert Southey, *“It is with words as with sunbeams. The more they are condensed, the deeper they burn.”*



### Action Research Component

- Abstract

### Wisconsin Teaching Standards

1K1, 1S2, 1S4, 1D1, 1D5, 2K1, 2S1, 3S6, 4S1, 5D5, 8K1, 8K3, 8D1, 8D2, 9K1, 9K2



### Reading Assignment 7:

- Read: Craig Chapter 8 –
- Refer to APA Manual § 2.04,



### Discussion Question 7:

- None



### Action Assignment 7:

- Write your Abstract in a Word document. Check the rubrics (*below*) to see if you have all of the components.
- Upload it to the Module 7 - Action Assignment Area and click Submit for Grading.



### Definition::

- **Abstract** - An abstract is a brief comprehensive summary of the contents of your research report. The reader should be able to get all of the essential elements of your research from reading the abstract.



### Tips for Writing a Good Abstract

- As the Publication Manual (2010) indicates, “a well prepared abstract can be the most important single paragraph” (p.26) of your paper.
- A good abstract is accurate, correctly reflecting what is in your final report; nothing more, nothing less.

- A good abstract is nonevaluative, i.e., report your results as they are.
- A good abstract is coherent and readable. Use active, rather than passive voice. Use appropriate tenses- past for manipulations of data, present for conclusions drawn, and future for plan of action. Use third, rather than first person.
- A good abstract is concise. Say a lot briefly – between 150-250 words. Avoid repetitions and redundancy. As written in the classic book, *The Elements of Style*, “A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts.” (Strunk, 1918)
- A good abstract must be written in one paragraph, in block format. Do not indent.



### Components of an Abstract:

- research question or problem under investigation
- context- background of the study
- design of the study – participants, instruments or intervention
- results or findings, and conclusions
- implications for educational change



### Web Links:

- [A Short Guide to Action Research Companion Website](#) –sample forms and figures, master’s thesis examples and key terms
- [How to Write an Abstract](#)
- [Research Abstracts](#) – examples
- Go to **External Links** in the course shell for additional resources.



### Help Files: (aka Handouts)

- Go to the **Tech Tips** folder in the Course Materials to find step by step instructions on the following:
  - Scanning documents
  - Tracking changes in WORD
  - Uploading assignment files
  - Uploading digital photos
  - Using the discussion area



### Rubrics: (shown below)

- Action Assignment 7 – Abstract
- Action Assignment 8 - The Final Paper

## MARIAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Department of Curriculum & Instruction

*EDT 657–Action Research: Reporting the Findings*

**ACTION ASSIGNMENT 7 - Abstract**

Name:

Cohort/School District:

Topic:

Grade Level:

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	1st Score	2 <sup>nd</sup> Score	Final Score
Complete	Contains all of the key components in the study- context, need or purpose, problem statement or research question, design or approach, participants or subjects, findings or results, conclusions, recommendations and plan of action or implications for educational change			/2
Accurate	Correct, coherent and readable description of the study			/2
Concise	Stayed within the 150-250 words range; one paragraph in one page; no redundancies			/2
Non-Evaluative	Reported results as they are, in an objective, unbiased manner; refrained from editorial commentaries			/2
Mechanics	Followed APA block format (no indentation), used correct tenses ; used third rather than first person; used active rather than passive voice; no spelling and grammatical errors.			/2
OVERALL				/10

Note: You are allowed one resubmission as long as you submit this assignment before its due date and resubmit it with the corrections before the due date of the next assignment.

## MARIAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Department of Curriculum & Instruction

EDT 657 - Action Research: Reporting the Findings

**Action Assignment 8 – The Final Paper**

Name:

Cohort/School District:

Title

Grade Level:

CRITERIA	0--1.25 = Minimal    1.26--2.5 = Basic    2.6--3.75 = Proficient    3.76--5 = Advanced	Reader 1	Reader 2
<b>Abstract</b> Action Assignment 7	Coherent and complete description of the study in APA-block format, 150-250 words, one page; double-spaced, no spelling or grammatical errors		
<b>Introduction</b> Action Assignment 1 and 3	Engaging introduction; s.m.a.r.t. problem statement/research question/hypothesis, clearly stated purpose and rationale; correctly and consistently followed APA format and template guidelines; no spelling or grammatical errors		
<b>Literature Review</b> Action Assignment 2	Well-organized review of literature, connected own study with existing research; properly cited sources, correctly and consistently followed APA format and template guidelines; no spelling or grammatical errors		
<b>Methodology</b> Action Assignment 4	Stated the appropriate design of the study; purposefully triangulated data sources; clearly described context, general population subject selection, instruments/intervention and procedure; correctly and consistently followed APA format and template guidelines; no spelling or grammatical errors		
<b>Findings</b> Action Assignment 5	Analysis fit research question or hypothesis; applied appropriate statistical analysis for quantitative research; organized, summarized and discussed the qualitative data; plausible interpretation of results; made connections with relevant studies cited in the literature review; identified limitations of the study, correctly and consistently followed APA format and template guidelines; no spelling or grammatical errors		
<b>Reflection</b> Action Assignment 6	Discussed the action research process including obstacles, successes, and lessons learned; identified new and old problems that remain unresolved and recommended appropriate research questions for further study; realistic plan of action with ways to share the results; concluded with an overall summary of the research		
<b>Figures &amp; Tables</b> Action Assignments 5 and 6	Use appropriate tables and figures to summarize the data; text adequately explained the tables and figures; properly labeled and formatted APA style, no spelling and grammatical errors		
<b>References</b> Action Assignment 2	Cited 7 or more appropriate and relevant references; all of the cited sources are current (within the last 5 years except for the classics and out-of-print books); consistently and accurately followed APA format, no spelling and grammatical errors		
<b>Appendix</b> Action Assignment 4 and 5	Complete and accurate Appendix including instruments and raw data; properly labeled; correct APA format		
<b>Overall</b> Action Assignment 8	Submitted clean final copy in one Word document on or before due date, professional and scholarly, followed APA format and template guidelines with appropriate subheadings, no spelling and grammatical errors, easy to understand, flows logically		
<b>TOTAL</b>		/50	/50

Note: This action assignment is 50% of your final grade in EDT 657. The other 50% will be determined by your participation in group discussions 5 & 6 and action assignments 5-7. There are no resubmissions for the final paper but you are expected to make all suggested changes addressing instructor's comments before uploading a clean copy to your portfolio for your final class – EDT678. The corrected final version will be archived at Marian University as evidence of your scholarly work.