

Annotation: A Selection of Abstracts to Compare and Contrast

As you may recall from your textbook, abstracts summarize the content of a longer piece of writing. However, different attributes, formats, and content may be evident, usually depending on the discipline of the author and the purpose of the abstract.

The following are some examples of abstracts. Identify the audience and purpose for each, and consider how they are similar to as well as different from one another.

An article abstract from the online version of the scholarly journal *Interacting with Computers*.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.intcom.2003.11.004>

A bibliography with abstracts of scientific articles about lyme disease
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/frankd/Chronld.htm>

To read the abstract of this sociology report, jump to page 2. The report is titled, “Transitions to Caregiving, Gender, and Psychological Well-Being: Prospective Evidence from the National Survey of Families and Households.” <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cde/nsfhwp/nsfh82.pdf> [PDF file; requires Adobe Acrobat Reader.]

Finally, here is the abstract of an engineering talk.
http://www.me.caltech.edu/seminars/abstracts/99-00/torczyński_j.html