# How to assess the quality of your abstract?

To make **a self-assessment of your Abstract**, you can ask yourself the following questions.

- Have I followed the journal's instructions to authors? Have I followed the right structure (i.e. structured, unstructured) and style (we vs passive)?
- Have I covered the relevant points from those below?

*background /context*
*research problem /aim – the gap I plan to fill*
*methods*
*results*
*implications and/or conclusions*

- Is everything mentioned in the Abstract also mentioned in the main text? Is the information consistent with what is presented in the paper?
- Whenever I have given my readers information, will it be 100% clear to them why they are being given this information? (You know why, but they don't.)
- Can I make my Abstract less redundant? If I tried to reduce it by 25% would I really lose any key content?
- Have I used tenses correctly? present simple (established knowledge), present perfect (past to present background information), past simple (my contribution)?
- Have I checked the spelling? Have I shown it to other people so that they can find any typos that I may have missed?
- Have I chosen my keywords carefully so that readers can locate my Abstract?
- Have I shown it to a colleague who is not familiar with the details of my research to see how much they can understand and can identify the value of the research?

For further information on abstracts, please read *Wallwork, A., 2016. Abstracts. In: A. Wallwork, ed., English for Writing Research Papers. [online] Springer, pp.217-247.*
*Available at: <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319260921> [Accessed 8 August 2020].*