The Art of the Abstract

UWO Classics Graduate Pro-Seminar

CB

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What is an Abstract?

Abstrahere: draw from

<u>Not</u> a proposal (*proponere*)

Why would you need to write an abstract?

Calls for Papers

c E.g.
Society of Classical Studies, World of Classics List of Calls for Papers

R If you want to present a conference paper

R If you are applying for funding to present a paper

R If you are submitting an accepted article or book chapter

Reference program

Refer a course assignment

Who will read your abstract?

Regram Committee Members

Should they include you on the program?

Is it interesting, professional, viable, suited to the audience and the limitations of the conference schedule?

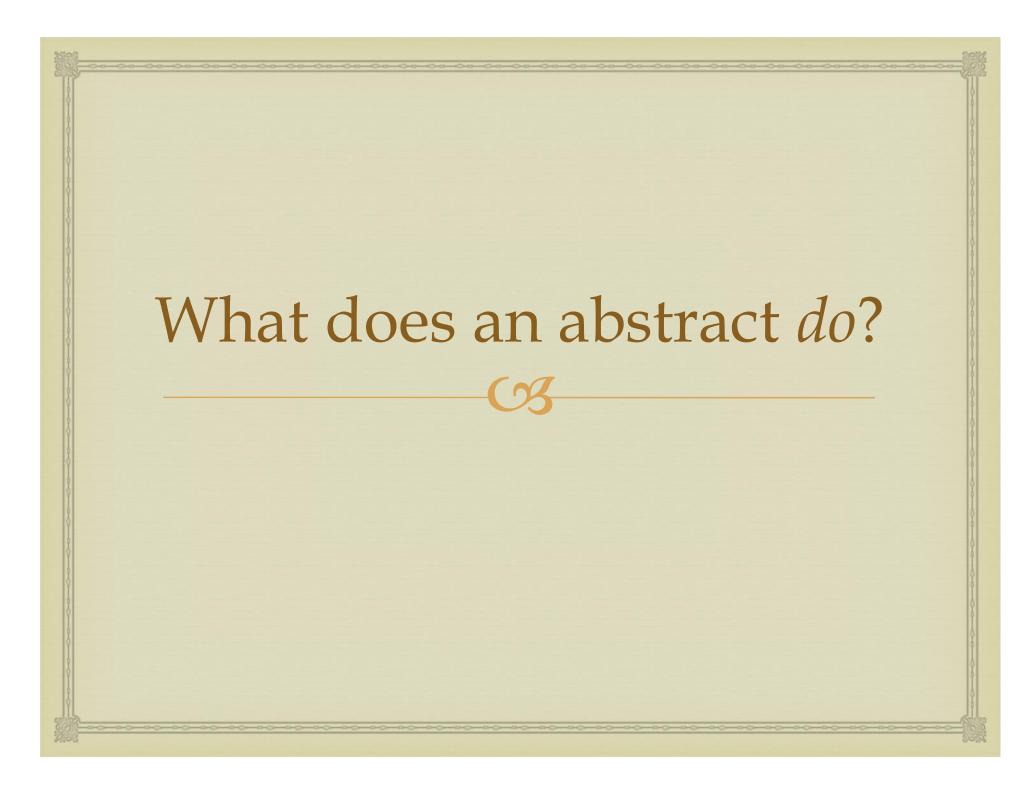
Should they attend your paper?

O they want to talk to you about your/their work?

Researchers

So they want to read your paper?

Real Funding committee members (not necessarily experts)



R Summarizes your argument

Real Indicates the importance of your work

Rersuades readers to want to see/hear more

R Helps scholars decide if it is useful for their research

When should you write your abstract?

↔ WAY WAY before the due date!

Revise.

How to write an abstract

What are the published guidelines?
What is your paper about?
How does it respond to the existing scholarly discussion?
What are the main steps of your argument?
Offer examples to illustrate
Make sure it summarizes a project that is a suitable length
Engage your audience
Pay attention to opening and closing sentences
Revise, revise, revise

Where can you find abstracts?

Resources

R Department keeps copies of abstract books

CR L'année philologique and other databases

Ra Society for Classical Studies guidelines

Keywords

R Words that reflect the content of your work

↔ Words that will help people find your work

Real Words that will lead search engines to your work