

- SOTES administration
- **Reminder: Final paper due by 5pm Wednesday 12/10. Must be electronic version by email. Send paper as *one document only*.**
- Writing an Abstract
- Questions about Final Paper, Affinity Groups, and Individual Consultation
- **Only new book for 242:**
Weinbach, R. W., & Grinnell, R. M. Jr. (2006). *Statistics for social workers* (7th ed.).
Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Writing an Abstract

- I. The Abstract is a very brief summary of your study:
 - A. Study objective
 - B. Justification
 - C. A few points from literature review (including theory used)
 - D. Research questions, hypotheses
 - E. Methods
 - F. Results (*not for the 240/242 papers*)
 - G. Implications
- II. In completed studies, the Abstract is reported in the past tense. *For yours, like the rest of your paper written as a proposal, it should be written in the future tense (e.g. "This study will focus on..." and "The study will use a retrospective case control design with interviews of participants...")*
- III. Separate page, 250 words or less, double-spaced
- IV. See sample 242 papers on course web page for Abstract examples

Affinity Group Work—Moving Forward with your Methods

Putting it all together. Can you describe the following in 5 minutes?

I. Introduction

- A. Title of study
- B. Problem area addressed
- C. Importance

II. Literature Review

- A. Brief summary of what you learned
- B. Research question(s) and, if relevant, hypothesis

III. Methods

A. Research design

- 1. Is your quantitative study descriptive, explanatory (non-evaluative), or evaluative?
- 2. If descriptive: Cross-sectional or longitudinal?
- 3. If explanatory:

- a) Cross-sectional or longitudinal?

- b) Prospective (looking forward) or retrospective (looking backward)?

- (1) Prospective example—surveys of adolescents looking for factors predicting school success, and then reviewing school grade records later

- (2) Retrospective example—sampling adolescents representing those along the continuum of grade performance, then surveying them to understand past factors. (Another term for this: *case control study*)

- 4. If evaluative: type of group design

- a) Experimental, quasi-experimental or pre-experimental?

- b) Specific type of design (e.g. pretest, posttest nonequivalent comparison group). *Note—no need to use X O notation in Final Paper.*

- B. Study population & sampling strategy (probability or non-probability, & specific

strategy)

- C. Study site
- D. Variables to be used—conceptual *and* operational definitions
- E. Human subjects considerations
- F. Study procedures & data collection strategies (survey, secondary data analysis, interviews, etc.)
- G. Study design limitations
 - 1. Design limitations (e.g. causality and internal validity)
 - 2. Sampling limitations (to whom can the sample be generalized)

IV. Is your study qualitative, or does it have a qualitative component? *Note: the following can be integrated into the Method sections listed above, or it can be a separate section.*

- A. Qualitative research question(s)
- B. Qualitative approach
 - 1. Narrative
 - 2. Phenomenological
 - 3. Grounded theory
 - 4. Ethnographic
 - 5. Case study—single or collective?
- C. Qualitative method
 - 1. Sampling strategy (almost always a type of non-probability sampling)
 - 2. Study procedures (interviews, analysis of documents, focus group, etc.)
 - 3. Researcher's stance (relationship to topic and study population; extent of participant observation)
 - 4. Anticipated themes