

Abstract Quick Guide

A successful abstract answers the following questions:

- 1) What was your research question and what inspired it?
- 2) Describe your research methods.
- 3) Preliminary results and conclusions. Remember, evidence ≠ analysis. Briefly analyze the findings of your research for the reader.
- 4) If possible, discuss the broader impact of your research.

Sample (taken from UMT's UMCUR page)

http://www.umt.edu/ugresearch/umcur/sample_abstracts.php):

Echoes from the Underground

European and American Literature

Friedrich Nietzsche notably referred to the Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky as "the only psychologist from whom I have anything to learn." Dostoevsky's ability to encapsulate the darkest and most twisted depths of the human psyche within his characters has had a profound impact on those writers operating on the periphery of society. Through research on his writing style, biography, and a close reading of his novel *Notes from the Underground* I am exploring the impact of his most famous outcast, the Underground Man, on counterculture writers in America during the great subculture upsurge of the 1950s and 60s. Ken Kesey, Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac employ both the universal themes expressed by the Underground Man as well as more specific stylistic and textual similarities. Through my research I have drawn parallels between these three writers with respect to their literary works as well as the impact of both their personal lives and the worlds that they inhabit. The paper affirms that Dostoevsky has had a profound influence on the geography of the Underground and that this literary *topos* has had an impact on the writers who continue to inhabit that space.

(191 words; 6 sentences)



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