



Writing a synopsis

4. Annotated Engineering Management technical report synopsis

What is a synopsis?

You have probably come across examples of synopses, or abstracts, at the beginning of academic journal articles when researching your assignments. If you have read these synopses, you'll already know that a synopsis is a summary of the article; its arguments and conclusion. Consequently, a synopsis is very useful in helping you to decide if an article is relevant to your research, and if it is worth reading. Synopses are also an integral feature of conferences: presenters are required to submit an abstract or synopsis of their papers, which conference delegates later receive. This helps the delegates decide which presentation they will attend.

As an undergraduate student you may be required to submit a synopsis to accompany a long essay or report. Your synopsis should include an overview of your arguments and conclusions. Synopses are generally only one or two paragraphs long, and they are placed before the beginning of the report or essay.

The following student synopsis, or abstract, is from a first year engineering management report. The purpose of the report was to provide background information to a company for a new project on the design of artificial knee joints. The report was quite detailed in scope (approximately 20 pages) and the main parts of the report were: the basic structure and activity of the knee joint, aspects of design, and evaluation.



1. Annotated History essay synopsis



2. Annotated Management essay synopsis



3. Annotated Civil Engineering technical report synopsis



4. Annotated Engineering Management technical report synopsis



5. Annotated Education research report synopsis

Learning objectives

By viewing these annotated model synopses, you will have a greater understanding of:

- what a synopsis is
- the type of information which should be included in a synopsis

Student abstract	Comments
The design of artificial knee joints is a very delicate process involving many theoretical and mechanical principles, mathematical calculations, experimentation and a complex understanding of the joint's motion and stresses. An ideal artificial knee joint design would reproduce the knee's exact characteristics, therefore the function of the normal knee should be thoroughly considered. Dependence cannot always be placed on normal parts of the knee so alternatives must be found.	<i>orientation to report</i>
There are a large number of artificial knee joints available but there is a need for a range of essentially different models for specific problems of diseased joints. Two different types of designs, the hinge or sledge joint can be used according to the problem and either the total or only selected parts can be replaced.	<i>overview of requirements of artificial knee joints</i> <i>recommendation</i>

Acknowledgment

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