



5.9

Writing an abstract

Chemistry briefing sheet

During this activity, you will write an abstract for the article you wrote in Activity 5.7 Writing a scientific review article. This worksheet gives you the opportunity to read an abstract and identify its key features.

Note that the abstract below has been written for a review article, rather than a scientific research paper. A review is a scientific paper that draws together the findings of a range of researchers who have published their work in various different publications. The article you wrote in Activity 5.7 is effectively a review, so your abstract may bear some resemblance to that shown below.

Abstract: Glycerol (propane-1,2,3-triol) has been known to man for many hundreds of years. Recently, world-wide production of glycerol has increased dramatically as it is formed as a by-product in the manufacture of biodiesel. This is of great interest to the 'Green Chemistry' community as glycerol, like biodiesel, is a renewable material. Because of this, the potential of glycerol as a feedstock for new chemical processes is being explored by scientists across the globe. This article presents a synopsis of glycerol chemistry, including the formation of a range of new products by exploiting new chemical reactions. These products include diols, carbonates and ethers. The article also presents research into new ways of using catalysts to control reactions of glycerol, including oxidation and reduction. The article closes with a summary of the commercial possibilities for the processes discussed, with an eye on the broader context of the 'Green' revolution in industrial chemistry, notably the shift from non-renewable starting materials to those which are renewable.

After reading the above text, you should write down your ideas about the key features of the abstract. You may choose to do this as bullet points, or as a flow diagram. Use the space below.

You should now write the abstract for your article following these ideas.