

Academic Fairy Tale

The aim of this resource is to help write abstracts (it should be used with our other resource on writing abstracts). We call this the 'Academic fairy tale' as it is a useful approach to help clarify your thinking about your research at the conceptual stage/pre-proposal or during the data collection/analysis stages or once completed to remind you of the broader arguments. It can also be used to draft conference presentation abstracts and journal articles. The idea is to complete each prompt that is focused on an aspect of the abstract (change the tenses depending on where you are in the research journey).

When research is at the conceptual stage/post-proposal:

Once upon a time, researchers thought that.....
(Background/Literature review)

But then I thought that maybe.....
(Hypothesis/question/thesis/argument)

So what I want to do is/what I did was.....
(Methods)

What I think I'll find is/what I am finding is that.....
(Possible results)

Which might change the way we.....
(Implications/conclusions)

When research has been completed:

Once upon a time.....
(Literature review)

But then I thought that maybe.....
(Hypothesis/question/Thesis/Argument)

So I decided to.....
(Methods)

I found that.....
(Results)

Now we know that.....
(Conclusions)

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