

Module 1: Rewrite the Abstract

Activity Goal

To practise writing a *clear, structured, reviewer-friendly abstract* for a research proposal. You will rewrite a weak abstract into a strong one, using simple English, clear logic, and specific details.

1. The Task

Below is a poor abstract. It is vague, general, and does not tell a reviewer anything useful.

Weak abstract:

“We want to study ways to help rural women in Southeast Asia improve their livelihoods. We will work with partners and do activities in the community. This project will create opportunities for women and lead to better outcomes.”

Your task is to rewrite this as a **strong mini-abstract** that clearly explains the research study.

You have **30 minutes**.

2. What Your New Abstract MUST Include

Write a short paragraph (5–7 sentences) that includes:

1. **The research problem**
 - What is the issue you are studying?
2. **A specific location**
 - Example: one region, one district, one province.
3. **The aim or research question**
 - What exactly are you trying to find out?
4. **The method**
 - What type of data will you collect?
 - With whom?
 - How will you analyse it?
5. **The population**
 - Which women? Which communities?
6. **The expected contribution**
 - Why does this research matter?
 - Who might benefit?

3. Helpful Writing Tips

- Use short, simple sentences.

- Use clear, specific words (no “activities,” “opportunities,” “better outcomes”).
- Stay focused on research, not project delivery.
- Imagine a reviewer must understand your idea in 60 seconds.
- Follow a logical order:
 - Problem
 - Location
 - Aim
 - Method
 - Population
 - Contribution