Abstract definitions:

Structured abstract-

Many biomedical journals have come to require a structured abstract, rather than a narrative one. Structured abstracts have distinct, labeled sections within them, such as Introduction, Objective, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion. These sections impose an order within which authors can more clearly and precisely summarize their work. And because they mirror the scientific process itself, they provide a logical framework for succinctly describing each stage of the research in language more likely to result in retrieval by searchers.

Narrative abstract-

Many abstracts, particularly in the humanities, are narrative—that is, they have no particular form and are simply the author's attempt to capture the essence of the article in, say, 250 words. In these kinds of abstracts, it's entirely up to the author to decide how to allocate those words, which ideas to emphasize, and what vocabulary to use.

But this lack of structure can negatively influence the searchability of these articles, and thus their visibility and impact. Many databases, such as Medline and CINAHL (Nursing and Allied Health) only offer searching of titles and abstracts of articles, not full text. If the abstract does not convey the salient points of the article or use appropriate terminology to do so, the article it represents will not be retrieved as easily or frequently.