

GENERAL FORMAT FOR ABSTRACTS

The main purpose for writing a science project abstract is to give both you and the reader a very brief summary and overview of your project. If written well, the abstract can tie your project together and, most importantly, it will give your project a sense of continuity and clarity.

You should keep a couple of main points in mind as you write it:

1. The abstract should definitely **NOT** be longer than one page.
2. Summarize everything; do not burden the reader with too much content.

The following is a suggested outline for writing the abstract:

Title, Theme and Purpose:

- Present the main area to which this study relates. Spend some time thinking about how to say this.
- The trick here is to say something (in a few words) that can capture the imagination and interest of the reader without saying too much.
- This should be a **MAXIMUM** of one paragraph.

Methodology:

- Describe the study. If experimental, include the subjects (if this applies), procedure, and general procedure. Make the experimental and dependent variables clear. Give an overview of what was done.

Results:

- Highlight the major findings of the study. Summarize the most important findings.

Conclusions:

- Briefly describe any major conclusions drawn. If possible, relate this to the purpose of the study.

Further research:

- Note any further questions which have arisen from your project. Only include questions that can be used for further research / projects. This is an incredibly important part of this abstract. This tells the reader that you recognize the limits of your study and that you can see other problems and questions that can be turned into studies.

On the visual display:

- This should be labeled "**Abstract**" and placed on the middle panel towards the center and top.