

## Preparing an Abstract

An abstract is a concise summary of the project. It is not merely a general description of what the project is about. After finishing research and experimentation, you are required to write a 250-word, one page abstract printed on a single sheet of paper.

The following, and only the following, should be briefly included in a proper abstract:

- **PURPOSE:** The purpose states the usefulness of the study. It answers the question why the project was undertaken.
- **PROCEDURE & DATA:** The procedure provides a brief summary of what was done. What actually happened?
- **CONCLUSION:** The conclusions provide a concise statement of the outcome of the investigation. They should be written in non-technical language and be related directly to the hypothesis. The conclusion should identify unsolved aspects of the original problem or any new problems identified.

An abstract may also include any possible research applications. Only minimal reference to previous work may be included. The abstract should focus on this years work and should not include acknowledgements or work/procedures done by a mentor.

- **Abstract must be typed.**
- **Abstract is limited to one page.**
- **It must be located on your display board in the lower right corner.**
- **Use the Chart on page 7 & 8 to help you write the abstract.**

## Abstract Outline

First Paragraph introduces your purpose.

**The purpose of my science fair project is to ...** (Tell the usefulness of the experiment. Answer the question WHY you choose the project.)

The second paragraph is about the procedure you followed. Notice the transition words, you do not have to use all of them. Use them as you explain the steps of your experiment. Include data which means what actually happened. Explain the kind of measurements you obtained.

**To conduct my experiment, I first...**

**Next**

**Then**

**After**

**Once**

**Then**

**This**

(Turn paper over – there is a back)

The last paragraph states the results of your experiment.

Yes, I proved my hypothesis because...

No, I didn't prove my hypothesis because...

**I found that ...**

**Finally, ... (explain how this could be used for future applications or what you would change or if you would do it again and why?)**

### **Format Requirements**

- Three paragraphs (purpose, procedure, conclusion)
- Keep it to one Page
- Edit for Spelling and punctuation
- Attach to the lower right hand corner of your science project
- No name, school, acknowledgements, or work done by lab scientist who helped you.