



## What is a Science Abstract?

### *Part I: What is an abstract?*

**An abstract is a brief, written discussion of your Science Fair Project. It answers the following questions:**

1. Why do this study? (i.e. purpose)
2. What were your questions before entering into your study?
3. What hypothesis was developed as a result of your questions?
4. What challenges did you face while engaged in this study?
5. What was the result of your study?
6. What ramifications does your study have upon the world of science?

***Part II: Each student*** who does a science fair project must write an abstract that will be displayed with their project.

**Sci-Tech Fair project abstracts can be placed on the able in a folder while others can be physically attached to your display-board.**

Each abstract consists of a **brief statement** of the essential, or most important, thoughts about your project. Abstracts must:

- summarize, clearly and simply, the main points of the experiment and/or the main sections of the report.
- Include succinct answers to the questions **noted in Part I.**
- Syntax, spelling, grammar, and punctuation, neatness, and originality are important.
- Be presented in an organized, professional manner
- Must be presented to the judges upon request before the oral presentation

***Sample Grade appropriate abstracts:***

***<http://www.sefmd.org/Abstracts/SampleAbstracts.htm>***



### ***Part III: What do you include when writing science fair project abstracts?***

**Use the checklist below to ensure your report provides sufficient detail:**

1. Project title, School, City, Province
2. Purpose of your project / experiment
3. Name of mentor, contact or sponsor
4. An introductory statement of the reason for investigating the topic of the project.
5. A statement of the problem or hypothesis being studied.
6. It also may include any possible research applications.
7. Procedures used
8. Summarization of the key points.
9. Overview of the investigation that you conducted. .

**Note: Do not include work done by a mentor, acknowledgements, work done by a teacher in a class or lab or work done prior to your involvement in your project.**

10. Observation/Data/Results

11. Conclusions

- Describe briefly conclusions that you derived from your investigation.

Finally, in the summary paragraph, reflect on the process and possibly state some applications and extensions of the investigation.

### ***Part IV: More Tips When Writing Science Fair Project Abstracts***

- The abstract is printed on one page and is usually between 100 to 300 words long
- Judges and the public must have an accurate idea of the project after reading the abstract.

(From: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/abstracts.html#ex2> and adapted from the following web site:

<http://www.super-science-fair-projects.com/science-fair-project-abstracts.html>)