

# Official 2022 GSEF Abstract Form

Required for all projects. Must be displayed vertically at project booth. See GSEF Display & Safety Regulations.

Project Title:

Student Name(s):

School Name & City:

**TYPE ABSTRACT ↓ Abstracts must be at least 10 point font and no more than 250 words / 1,800 characters.**

## SELECT CATEGORY ↓

Please be consistent across all forms and materials.

- Animal Sciences
- Behavioral & Social Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Biomedical & Health Sciences
- Biomedical Engineering
- Cellular & Molecular Biology
- Chemistry
- Computational Biology & Bioinformatics
- Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Embedded Systems
- Energy: Chemical
- Energy: Physical
- Engineering Mechanics
- Environmental Engineering
- Materials Science
- Mathematics
- Microbiology
- Physics & Astronomy
- Plant Sciences
- Robotics & Intelligent Machines
- Systems Software
- Translational Medical Sciences

## ANSWER PROMPTS ↓

1. As part of this research project, the student directly handled, manipulated, or interacted with (check ALL that apply):
  - human participants
  - potentially hazardous biological agents
  - vertebrate animals
  - microorganisms
  - rDNA
  - tissue
2. I/we worked or used equipment in a regulated research institution or industrial setting:  Yes  No
3. This project is a continuation of previous research.  Yes  No
4. My display board includes non-published photographs/visual depictions of humans (other than myself):  Yes  No
5. This abstract describes only procedures performed by me/us, reflects my/our own independent research, and represents one year's work only.  Yes  No
6. I/we hereby certify that the abstract and responses to the above statements are correct and properly reflect my/our own work.  Yes  No



## Completing the Abstract:

Abstracts are limited to a maximum of 250 words or 1,800 characters (including spaces) and must fit within the predefined area with a font size no smaller than 10 point. Please be sure to consult the information from your local or regional fair for the proper formatting of the header information as fairs differ in what is required (or not allowed).

The abstract **should include the following:**

- A) *Purpose of the experiment*
- B) *Procedure*
- C) *Data*
- D) *Conclusions*

It may also include any possible research applications. Only minimal reference to previous work may be included.

An abstract **must not include the following:**

- A) *Acknowledgements (including naming the research institution and/or mentor with which you were working), or self-promotions and external endorsements*
- B) *Work or procedures done by the mentor*

## Tips for Writing an Abstract:

A project abstract is a brief paragraph or two (limited to 250 words or 1,800 characters, including spaces) highlighting and/or summarizing the major points or most important ideas about your project. An abstract allows judges to **quickly** determine the nature and scope of a project.

- Emphasize these aspects: purpose (hypothesis), methods (procedures used), data summary or analysis, and conclusions.
- Focus only on the current year's research.
- Omit details and discussions.
- Use the past tense when describing what was done. However, where appropriate use active verbs rather than passive verbs.
- Use short sentences. Don't abbreviate by limiting articles or other small words in order to save space.
- Avoid jargon and use appropriate scientific language.
- Use concise syntax, correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

## Avoid a Rewrite:

- Focus on what you did, not on the work of your mentor or of the laboratory in which you did your work.
- Do NOT include acknowledgements, self-promotion, or external endorsements. Don't name the research institution and/or mentor with which you were working, and avoid mentioning awards or honors (including achieving a patent) in the body of the abstract.
- Be sure to emphasize the current years' research. A continuation project should only make a brief mention of previous years' research (no more than a sentence or two).