

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).