

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Adapted from <http://kcs.kana.k12.wv.us/fair/sciabsguide.html>

After finishing your research and experimentation, you will need to write a one page abstract or summary of your project. The abstract is to be prepared on typing or notebook paper and may not exceed 250 words; your abstract needs to be brief and to the point (communicate ideas effectively by providing the basic facts of each part of your project), must use Standard English and be legible.

Place your Abstract as the cover page to your research paper and on your display board. Copies of this abstract will also be needed if your project is selected to “go to county” or “state” science fairs.

The main categories found in a well written abstract include:

- **Project Objective or Goal,**
- **Project Method and Materials,**
- **Project Results,** and finally
- **Discussion and Conclusions.**

Objective or Goal: State the objective, goal, purpose or hypothesis upon which the project is based. Example: My objective was to learn if different fertilizers affect the tastes of tomatoes. When stated as a question it would sound like this, "Do different fertilizers affect the taste of tomatoes?" Stated as a hypothesis, the statement would sound like this, "The use of different fertilizers will have an affect on the taste of tomatoes."

Materials and Methods: Indicate the materials, methods, and experimental design used in your project. Briefly describe your experiment or engineering methods.

Results: Summarize the results of your experiment and indicate how they relate to your objective.

Discussions/Conclusions: Indicate if your results supported your hypothesis or enabled you to attain your objective. Discuss briefly how information from this project expands our knowledge about the category subject.

Make sure you include the following details in appropriate category above:

1. The project's title (using appropriate capitalization) and fair category
2. Your name, grade level, school, and district,
3. A short problem statement that includes the hypothesis and purpose for this investigation,
4. A summation of the procedures, control and experimental,
5. If data is to be include, only cite the major data gathered, and
6. Briefly state your conclusion(s). It also may note unique observations, limitations and/or applications.

To view examples of the 2001 **California State Science Fair Abstracts** go to <http://www.usc.edu/CSSF/History/2001/Projects/>