

Official Abstract and Certification

COMPLETING THE ABSTRACT:

Abstracts are limited to a maximum 250 words. If you are having difficulty saving your abstract in STEM Wizard, please remove any mathematical symbols or special characters and try again.



The abstract should include the following:

- purpose of the experiment
- procedure
- data
- 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:**

- acknowledgments (including naming the research institution and/or mentor with which you were working), or self-promotions and external endorsements
- work or procedures done by the mentor

TIPS ON WRITING A PROJECT ABSTRACT

A project abstract is a brief paragraph or two (limited to 250 words or 1,800 characters) 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, but vary sentence structure.
- Use complete sentences. Don't abbreviate by omitting 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 year's research. A continuation project should only make a brief mention of previous years' research (no more than a sentence or two).

