



SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

CAMP STATEWIDE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
University of California, Irvine
UC Irvine Student Center

Before you begin to develop your abstract, discuss with your mentor and/or program coordinator and review these guidelines:

The abstract reports the particulars of the scientific paper. It is a self-contained form that exists outside the body of the research paper, and as such, must be able to stand on its own merits, independent of the paper. An abstract extracts the most important points of a paper and presents them in a concise way. The abstract uses the same language of the paper. *For the CAMP Statewide Undergraduate Research Symposium, students are to submit a 250 word abstract.*

Because the abstract, as a form, is independent of the science paper but uses the same language, it can function as a microcosm of the science paper, and as such offers the opportunity for close scrutiny as a prelude to engaging the scientific paper as a whole. The abstract is more broadly read than the paper. Abstracts may be published by themselves in journals solely devoted to them. More importantly, electronic information sources will often contain the abstract, which can be subjected to a key word search. The time constraints that might restrict a scientist's interest in a whole paper would make the abstract a desirable form to survey relevant research. Your abstract will appear in the CAMP Statewide Undergraduate Research Symposium Program.

The title of the abstract is very important. The title should reflect the content of the paper and it should be specific and succinct. Use key words for indexing and for searches.

THE 250 WORD ABSTRACT MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- (1) the scientific question or problem
- (2) how the experiment was done
- (3) what the observations were
- (4) the meaning of the observations.

Each of the above four points represents one whole section from the body of the scientific paper. The abstract condenses the key point or points of the introduction. In specifying how the experiment was done, the abstract represents the salient points of the methods section. In representing the observations following the experiment, the abstract condenses the results section. When appropriate, the abstract might also indicate the significance of the research.

FORMAT: Title should be in bold, all caps. Directly beneath title, include your name, major, class level (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, 5th year senior), campus, faculty mentor name (use appropriate title, Professor or Dr.), department or lab, graduate student mentor or lab partner name, as appropriate.

FACULTY SIGNATURE REQUIRED: You must have your faculty mentor sign off on your abstract. If your faculty mentor is not available, see your CAMP faculty director or CAMP coordinator.