

## TIPS ON WRITING THE ABSTRACT

A project abstract is a brief paragraph or two (limited to 250 words or 1800 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 the project.

- Emphasize these aspects: purpose/goals, 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 the sentence structure.
- Use complete sentences. Don't abbreviate by omitting articles or 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 the laboratory in which you did your work.
- Do NOT include acknowledgements, self-promotion or external endorsements. Do NOT 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).