

Writing a Abstract



What is an Abstract?

A abstract is a brief summary of a scientific paper, generally stating:

- An introductory statement of the purpose for the lab
- A couple sentences of a brief description of the methods used.
- A few sentences that state and interpret the results
- A brief thoughtful conclusion

Why is an abstract used?

- Allows the reader to easily understand a science paper
- Allow you as the writer to express a long lab briefly

Science Writing in General:

- use straightforward language
- avoid extraneous details
- adjectives & adverbs are usually not necessary
- avoid “I” “we” “the class”
- avoid “today” “yesterday” (*It doesn't matter when the experiment was done!*)

Purpose	- you need not make up a new one... use the one we decided upon
Methods	- standardized pieces of equipment do not need to be explained; avoid details
Results	- summarize them in an organized way - include #s if they can be compared
Conclusion	- answer the purpose
Other <i>(hypothesis, experimental error, next steps...)</i>	- <i>include whatever is relevant to results and implications</i> -



Any questions?

Independently write your abstract!