



Guidelines for Submissions: Preparing Your Abstract



Preparing Your Abstract

The format for the 200-word abstract includes: 1 inch margins, keyed in 12 point font (Times New Roman). Abstracts must be adequate in length but not exceed these specifications. The header preceding the abstract body must include:

- Title of the research;
- Authors name(s);
- High school, high school city, high school state;
- Name of teacher
- Name of mentor(s)
- scientific discipline

Include one line of space between the heading and the abstract body

Please carefully proofread your submission, since abstracts will not be typed or edited.

The abstract should accurately convey the essential nature of the research conducted and the most significant conclusions reached. A further purpose of the abstract is to attract the interest and curiosity of the non-specialist reader and thus encourage exchange, discussion, and elaboration between various authors and between authors and readers.

Content

- What you did, how you did it, what it means, why you did it and what you found.
- Citing of experimentation completed by submission date (*anticipated* experimentation or results *should not* be included).
- Diagrams, if used, must be drawn in black ink.
- Reference to a specific procedure should be restricted to a description of the process employed.
- State results, conclusions or findings clearly and concisely.
- Credit any financial sponsorship at the end of the abstract: “Research supported by ...”

Abstract Sample

The following sample abstract is typed in TIMES NEW ROMAN – 12 point with one inch margins.

Title: Genetic Transformation of Sweet Potato
Author: Jane Einstein
School/city/state: Anywhere High School, Howell, NY 12227
Teacher: Mrs. Georgiana Spallanza
Mentor: Mr. Joseph Pascale, Albany Medical College
Scientific discipline: Biological Sciences

Sweet potato is considered the sixth most important food crop in the world and has high nutritional value for humans. However, pests, diseases and environmental factors prevent the crop from reaching its maximum agricultural potential. Improvement of the sweet potato is highly limited by conventional breeding methods. Recombinant DNA technology offers a means for manipulation of the sweet potato genome to integrate valuable traits. Critical parameters of the electroporation (voltage of current and digestion of cell wall) and particle bombardment (helium pressure and gold particle distribution) were examined for efficient DNA transfer. Electroporation resulted in less damage and higher recovery of tissue after DNA delivery compared to particle bombardment. Transformed cells were identified with two marker genes: Beta-glucuronidase (GUS) and Green Florescent Protein (GFP). Cells expressing GFP were easily identified due to uniform protein distribution, and allow the monitoring of the cell development pattern, unlike cells expressing the GUS gene. Using the optimized conditions derived from the present study, sweet potato can be genetically improved for increased crop productivity and nutritional value.

I declare this research is my own and that I have given credit to all sources, consultants and references used.

Student signature required.



Guidelines for Submissions: Preparing



Your research should be original, if not completely unique. It must report findings not previously cited in scientific literature. It is important that:

- Content and style be consistent with professional scientific conference papers. Consult the library or your teacher for format.
- Your research is concise and progresses logically from hypothesis to conclusion.
- Conclusions (negative, positive or inconclusive) demonstrate that you attempted to prove your hypothesis using scientific principles.
- Correct grammar and spelling are used as well and attention taken to presentation.

Format

- 8 ½" X 11" white paper
- One inch margins all around
- Five – 20 pages, doubled spaced (In counting pages, count: Abstract, Review of Literature, Statement of Purpose, Methods and Materials, Results, Discussion, Conclusions and Significance of Findings and any graphs or charts. Do not count Table of Contents, Certifications, Lists of Figures, References or Citations).
- Times New Roman 12 point font, laser printed or typed
- Each page must include a header with only your last name and page number.

Paper Content

- **Cover Page** must include: Your Name, Your School Name, Project Title
- **Table of Contents** organized by topics and sub-topics and include the page numbers on which each begins.
- **The Abstract paragraph** must be included – not the Abstract Form.
- **Lists of Figures and Tables** follow the Table of Contents and list graphs, drawings, tables, photographs by page number.
- **Introduction** or the abstract paragraph (required)
- **Statement of Purpose**
- **Methods and Materials**
- **Results** (data or findings)
- **Discussion and conclusion**
- **Acknowledgement** of major assistance
- **References or literature cited:** References must be cited at least once in the paper and listed at the end of the paper and citations (footnotes, endnotes) are required for important statements of facts or opinions taken from written sources. Each citation to a reference should be given in the body of the text in the style of scientific journal articles.
- **Submit two copies** of your research paper bound with slide-on spine report cover (do not staple, bind or clip).

Remember ...

Incomplete or inaccurate submissions will not be considered.



Preparing Your Speaker Session



Presentation

The goal is to make the research you have undertaken understandable and compelling to each and every member of the audience. You must present the process and importance of your work -- through concept, research, experimentation and results.

Prepare 12 minutes of uninterrupted oral presentation including visual aids. Your presentation will be timed and managed by a Moderator. The Moderator will stand to signal you when there are only two minutes remaining for your presentation. Moderators will also manage the question period afterward.

Practice and practice your presentation to perfect the timing and identify gaps or weaknesses. It should be an unhurried interpretation of your visual aids which outline:

- Concise review of literature
- Experimentation
- Results and their significance
- Graph variables and distribution of data should be identified and the significance stated.

Audio Visual Aids

Your presentation *MUST* be copied onto a CD ready for loading onto a laptop computer provided by JSHS. You must use Power Point version 7.0 or earlier. For technical assistance or if you do not have access to a CD burner, contact Len Behr (lenbehr@verizon.net) a minimum of ten days before the symposium.

LCD projectors will be provided.

Suggestions:

- Limit each of your Powerpoint slides to a main idea (15 – 20 words)
- Use several simple slides vs. one complex slide.
- Avoid crowded tabular data.
- Use a series of slides for progressive disclosure of information.
- Use duplicate slides to refer to the same slide again.
- Test visibility of slides – especially graphs. When preparing text to be photographed, measure the maximum dimension of the area on paper in inches, then stand the same number of feet away (i.e., If the text area is 9 inches, stand nine feet away) to determine if the text can be easily read.

Restrictions:

Selected student presenters for poster and speaker sessions at the Upstate NY JSHS must register as full conference participants and stay through the awards ceremony on Tuesday evening. Absence may be authorized only by Upstate NY JSHS Directors.