Information on Required Abstract & Certification
for ALL Projects at the
SSEF of Florida

After finishing research and experimentation, you are required to write a (maximum) 250 word abstract. This should be written on the Official Abstract and Certification For as provided by the State Science and Engineering of Florida.

The top box of the Abstract should include:

- Complete TITLE OF THE PROJECT – must match the Title on the Entry Form and Display
- Student Team Leader Name
- School, City, State

Select the Category – note: these are the **Categories for the SSEF of Florida.** Finalists selected by their Regional Fairs for the Intel ISEF will be completing a different abstract online and will have some other category choices.

Completing the Abstract:
Abstracts are limited to a maximum 250 words and must fit within the predefined area.
The abstract should include the following:
a) Purpose of the research
b) Procedure
c) Data
d) Conclusions

It may also include any possible applications. Only minimal reference to previous work may be included. An abstract **must <u>not</u> include the following:**
a) Acknowledgements (including naming the research institution and/or mentor with which you were working) or self-promotions and external endorsements
b) Any work or procedures done by the mentor

Completing the CERTIFICATION:
At the bottom of the Abstract & Certification form there are 7 questions. Read each carefully and answer appropriately. The Scientific Review Committee (SRC) will review and approve the abstract and answers to these questions.

The abstract will be CERTIFIED by the SRC and you will receive the certified copy before setting up your project. Allow space on or in front of your project to Display the CERTIFIED ABSTRACT.

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).