**Abstract Guidelines**

Short summary of project. Paragraph form. No longer than 250 words

Abstracts are often the first part of your research that is seen and will often determine whether someone continues to read your report or examines your work further. Because of this, it is critical that your abstract is concise and clear. Abstracts should: 1) describe what was previously known and what your study added (Background), 2. How you carried out your research (Methods), and 3) what your studies found using statistical results when possible (Results). Modified from Andrade, 2011

All abstracts should contain:

**Background:** Why do we care about the problem and the results? What problem is being addressed? Be careful not to use too much jargon. In some cases, it is appropriate to put the problem statement before the motivation, but usually, this only works if most readers already understand why the problem is important. What is the hypothesis?

**Example:** Based on sales numbers from car dealers, red cars have been the most popular car color for the past two decades. However, it remains unknown whether this is due to the consumers’ preference or whether the dealers simply provide more models in the red color, essentially forcing the consumer to buy a red car. We hypothesized that when given the option of any color, red would not be the most popular option.

**Methods:** It should contain enough detail to allow the reader to understand how the work was done, but it should not include every step that was performed.

**Example**: This study surveyed 200 prospective car buyers (age 22-45) and asked, “If all colors were available, which color of car would you buy?”

**Results:** What did you find? Why will this be important? To whom will it be important? Was the hypothesis supported or proven incorrect? When possible, express your results in terms of statistical testing and significance.

**Example:** Interestingly, the most popular choice was silver (35%) with red being second (20%). This difference was statistically significant as tested using Analysis of Variance (p<0.03). These results suggest that car dealers are restricting the consumers’ choice, and furthermore, that the dealers could possibly sell more cars if they had more models in silver.