

# Abstract Format and Guidelines

## JSEHS Abstract Requirements

47th Annual  
Junior Science, Engineering, and Humanities Symposium (JSEHS)  
University of Florida  
January 24-26, 2010

The abstract must be submitted on the required form (see form and sample abstract). Failure to submit the abstract in the correct format, and according to these guidelines will result in the abstract not being forwarded to the JSEHS Speaker Selection Committee.

**The maximum length of a JSEHS abstract is 200 words, and is typically one or two paragraphs. The abstract and reference list must fit on one single page.**

The reference list should be single-spaced and arranged in alphabetical order and double-spaced between entries. Your reference list must include at least two reviewed articles from current journal literature.

### Remember:

The abstract is probably the most critical factor used in determining those who are selected to be JSEHS Student Speakers.

You should take care to ensure that your abstract clearly states the experimental hypothesis of the original work, the research procedures, and the conclusion. The Selection Committee places great emphasis on this critical information.

Tests you performed should be specifically mentioned in the abstract as they indicate good research, and a deeper level of understanding of research practices.

Check your abstract to make sure what you have typed is grammatically and typographically correct. The type should be sufficiently dark, so that it is readable after photocopying.

***The reference list should include at least two recent entries, including at least one journal article. References should not include all web articles.*** The following American Psychological Association (APA) style reference formats may be used:

**Journal:** Author's Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. (Year). Title of Article.  
Journal Name, Volume, (Number), page - page.

**Book:** Author's Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. (Year). Book Title.  
City of Publication: Publisher.

**Personal Interview:** Author's Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. Personal communication.  
Business or Professional Affiliation. Month, Day, Year.

**Internet:** Author's Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. "Article Title." [On-Line],URL.

### Guidelines from the *Publication of the American Psychological Association*

An abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the contents of the article; it allows readers to survey the contents of an article quickly, and like a title, is used by abstracting and information services to index and retrieve articles.

#### A good abstract:

Correctly reflects the purpose and content of the manuscript. Do not include information that does not appear in the body of the paper. Comparing an abstract with an outline of the paper's headings is a useful way to verify the accuracy of an abstract.

Defines all abbreviations and acronyms. Spell out names of tests and drugs (use generic names for drugs). Define unique terms. Paraphrase rather than quote. Include names of authors and dates of publication in citations of other publications (and give a full bibliographic citation in the abstract's reference list). Include key words for indexing purposes.

Makes each sentence maximally informative, especially the lead sentence. Be as brief as possible.

Reports rather than evaluates. Do not add to or comment on what is in the body of the manuscript.

Contains clear and vigorous prose. Use verbs rather than the noun equivalents and active rather than passive voice. Use the present tense to describe results with continuing applicability or conclusions drawn. Use the past tense to describe specific variables manipulated or tests applied.