Abstract: General Template

**What is a research abstract?**

An abstract is a compact, concise, and self-contained description of a research project: brief background followed by the project’s main question or hypothesis, the experimental approach or methods, key results, and a one-sentence summary or conclusion. An abstract communicates to the reader the essential elements of your project. What is your project? What methods or approaches did you use? What did you learn or produce? How is your project significant and what is its impact? For this symposium, the abstract length is 200-250 words.

**Abstract components for a 200-250 word abstract**

Project Title

Presenter Name(s), Class Year(s), Other Co-Authors, Faculty Mentor's name

Abstract Body (200-250 words)

* Statement of Purpose: What is the main research question or the project’s objective?
* Materials & Methods: Briefly state the experimental or theoretical approaches or techniques that you used to answer the main research question or project objective. Did you use established experimental techniques or approaches typically used in your discipline? What were they? Did you conduct a literature search, interview people, collect, code, analyze and interpret data or synthesize and examine literary sources? Tell us!
* Results: What results did you obtain? Did you capture images, collect data, write a thesis, or synthesize sources from the Library, archives or somewhere else? If the time frame of your project is such that you don’t have results, describe what you have done and the next steps in the project. You can also explain any challenges encountered and how you might address them.
* Summary and significance: Write a concluding sentence that summarizes your project. You may also comment on its significance. What impact might your project have? Does it spark other questions or avenues of investigation?