



Agricultural Science Fair Contest Developing the Research Project Abstract

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. Abstract Defined: For the intention of the HLSR Agricultural Science Fair, an abstract is a document that briefly describes the topic, conveys the scope of the research, specifies significant data, and points out major findings and conclusions. Moreover, an abstract should concisely describe the purpose and objectives, materials and methods, hypothesis, results, discussion and conclusion(s) of the research effort. It should be specific, telling why and how the research was conducted, what the results were, and why they were important.
2. Well-constructed sentences with exact wording, in past tense passive voice, should be used.
3. Standard abbreviations may be used without definition. Each abbreviation should be spelled out and introduced in parentheses the first time it is used in the text.
4. Desired text can be copied and pasted into the required abstract sections.
5. Do not include references, credits, acknowledgements, or external endorsements.
6. Literature reviews and opinion pieces are not acceptable as an abstract.
7. Use the provided PDF (fillable format) template for developing the required abstract. Use only the space provided in the abstract template.
8. Be sure to save a completed copy of the abstract for your reference.
9. Changes are not permitted after the submission deadline.
10. If contestants do not follow these guidelines, point deductions will be taken at the discretion of the Superintendent, Show Management, and Judges.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION COMPONENTS:

1. Purpose and Objectives: Address the following question: Why was the research project done? Clearly state the problem that justifies conducting the research, the purpose of the research, its impact on agriculture, and the general approach and objectives.
2. Materials, Methods, and Procedures: Encompasses all materials and methods required and explains the project design. If used, the statistical procedures should be included. Written to enable others to replicate the study and results.
3. Hypothesis / Research Question: Clearly state the hypothesis to be tested or key research question of the project.
4. Results: Written results of the project are summarized. Description of data collected and statistical differences should be indicated, trends and relationships should be clearly addressed. No conclusions should be made in this section. Speculation and detailed interpretation of data should not be included in the Results but should be addressed in the Discussion section.
5. Discussion: Include a clear, detailed answer for the following: What do the results of the investigation mean and how were they the foundation of the research project? Minimal reference to previous work may be included.
6. Conclusions: Clearly state the primary outcomes of the research, including their potential significance. What should be done and/or changed as a result of the project, and what are the next steps to continue the research.