

Your poster abstract is placed underneath the title on your poster. It will be the first thing your reader sees, but should be the last thing that you write since it must completely summarize the essence of your poster – in a single paragraph:

- Why the experiment was undertaken (purpose)
- What problem was addressed (describe the specific question you investigated)
- How the problem was approached (methods, controls, procedures)
- What major results were found (give specifics – e.g. numbers, statistical tests)
- What major conclusions were drawn (again be specific)

In compact form, your abstract must present a complete and accurate summary of your work, and that summary must be fully self-contained; that is, it must make perfect sense to someone who has not read any other part of your poster. Here is a good example:

This study was undertaken to determine the wavelengths of light that are most effective in promoting photosynthesis in the aquatic plant *Elodea Canadensis* since some wavelengths are generally more effective than others. Rate of photosynthesis was determined at 25°C, using wavelengths of 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, and 700 nm and measuring the rate of oxygen production for one hour periods at each wavelength. Oxygen production was estimated from the rate of bubble production by the submerged plant. We tested 4 plants at each wavelength. The rate of oxygen production at 450 nm (approximately 2.5 mL O<sub>2</sub>/mg wet weight of plant/hour) was nearly 1.5X greater than that at any other wavelength tested, suggesting that the light of this wavelength (blue) is most readily absorbed by the chlorophyll pigments. In contrast, light of 550 nm (green) produced no detectable photosynthesis, suggesting that light of this wavelength is reflected rather than absorbed by the chlorophyll.

Count the total number of sentences in the example abstract, and the number of sentences devoted to each content area. Calculate the % of the abstract devoted to each area.

	# sentences	% of sentences	General Guidelines
Purpose			12%
Question Addressed			13%
Methods			25%
Results			25%
Conclusions			25%
Total			