Abstract Tips

- Write your paper first, and then write the abstract.
- Proofread your abstract several times -- submit your very best work.
- Know your audience and target your abstract accordingly.
- Have a peer read your abstract and then tell you what your research is about. If he or she has difficulty explaining your research, chances are your abstract requires revision.

For those students who conducted research:
1. Explain the purpose of your study/paper. In one sentence, state the primary objectives and scope of the study; also state the rationale for your research. Why did you do the research?
2. In terms of research methods, clearly state the techniques or approaches used in your study. For non-experimental work (such as those in the social sciences) describe your sources and your use/interpretation of the sources.
3. Describe your results, the data collected, and effects observed as informatively and concisely as possible. These results may be experimental or theoretical, just remember to make note of that in your abstract. Give special priority in your abstract to new and verified findings that contradict previous theories. Mention any limits to the accuracy or reliability of your findings.
4. Your conclusions should in essence describe the implications of the results: Why are the results of your study important to your field and how do they relate to the purpose of your investigation? Often conclusions are associated with recommendations, suggestions and both rejected and accepted hypotheses

For those students who participated in an internship:
1. Explain the purpose of your experience. Ideally in one sentence, state the primary objectives and scope of your work – how was the 80 hours spent and why?
2. Clearly state your specific responsibilities in this role.
3. Describe your results in relation to the objectives as informatively and concisely as possible. These results may be anecdotal, just remember to make note of that in your abstract.
4. Your conclusions should describe the implications of the results: How was your experience important with regard to the Public Health field? What, if any, recommendations or suggestions would you offer following your experience?

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