

Student: _____

Grade: _____ / _____

Experiment: _____

Common Abstract Errors
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Purpose refers to the lab manual or other outside information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Purpose is incorrect (the correct purpose is almost always “to measure ...”)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Equipment & Procedure</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract assumes the reader already knows what happened</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract lists the equipment rather than describing what its function</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Procedure is too detailed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Procedure is insufficiently detailed or refers to the lab manual</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Procedure does not reflect what you actually did</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> You accepted measurements that are not believable</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Analysis & Uncertainties</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract doesn't state why a plot was made</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract blames or credits a plot for making a decision</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract blames or credits Excel for making a decision</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Result is computed incorrectly</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Uncertainty is computed incorrectly</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Results & Conclusions</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numeric result has incorrect significant figures</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numeric result has bad units</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numeric result uses “E” or “^” notation (scientific notation must be in the form $(1.234 \pm 0.056) \times 10^{-2}$)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion blames “human error”</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion doesn't state the primary source of error (what improvement would most improve the result?)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The stated primary source of error was already accounted for (this is one of the most common mistakes!)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mechanical</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract has spelling and/or capitalization errors</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract has grammar errors (such as run-on sentences, missing verbs, missing nouns)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract has tense errors (every part should be in past tense)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract uses “would” or “could” inappropriately (nothing you already did will be done in the future!)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract uses a pronoun inappropriately (usually, you don't say what “it” is)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract uses an article incorrectly (“a” and “the” mean different things)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract has poor word choice (usually, a word doesn't mean what you think it does, or is too fancy)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract is not sufficiently concise</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abstract contains forbidden elements (such as pictures or equations)</p>

Comments: