

Student: _____

Grade: _____ / _____

Experiment: _____

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

Comments: