



# The Writing Center at Bristol Community College

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## Writing an Abstract or Proposal

### What is an abstract?

An abstract is a complete yet concise summary of a paper or project.

### What does it do?

An abstract provides a glimpse of a paper's content so that readers can decide if the piece is of interest to them.

### What does it contain?

Typically, an abstract contains the following:

- A precise and informative title, appropriate to the study: What key words capture the gist of the study?
- A statement of problem: What is your hypothesis?
- A reason for the study: Why was this study conducted?
- Brief description of methods used: How was the study designed and data collected?
- Results of the study: What was learned?
- Conclusions drawn from the study: Why does this study matter?

### What does an example look like?

#### Here's a sample:

The introduction of computer technology in the chemistry laboratories at Bristol Community College has included Smartboard technology. The present authors compared current technology (the Smartboard) with innovative display technology, the Sympodium. As a result of this comparison, the present team recommends the inclusion of Sympodium technology in the recommended package in Phase Two. Phase Two will include (as a model) the preparation of a video-clip of a basic laboratory technique to be used in the orientation of introductory chemistry students, using Smartboard technology. This team recommends the inclusion of a Sympodium, personal computer, computer projector, printer and a computer table as the mobile computer package for the second laboratory unit in the chemistry laboratory suite at Bristol Community College. The package is designed to provide students with efficient data storage in each laboratory unit of the chemistry suite and the capability of printing data for individual use in each of the laboratories.