

## THIS WEEK'S "PROJECT POTENCY" FOR THE 2016 CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SCIENCE SHOWCASE-

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### *AN ABSTRACT INCLUDED IN YOUR WRITTEN REPORT WILL MAKE THE LASTING IMPRESSION THAT YOU ARE THE EXPERT*

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In the world of science, before you are ever really regarded as a scientist, you must prove yourself by being published. Being published means you must have written *at least* one academic article that has been peer-reviewed and then included in an academic journal of some kind. Multiple such articles or a book or two solidifies the regard of other scientists in accepting you into their community as an authority in a particular field or area of study. Many a would-be scientist may indeed have done incredible, creative and original investigation that could have changed the world but no one ever knew because they didn't report well. Or, they discovered something significant but someone else got credit for the discovery, even years later, because they were the one that published a quality written piece.

The need for quality and clarity of your discovery in the form of a report can be clearly seen. If a hap-hazard writing structure or poor grammar or a lack of solid, measureable information is missing, then it will be difficult for fellow scientists to take you serious. You may have only one chance to make a first impression with a brilliant display board but a *lasting* impression is found in your report. Long after your experiment materials and display board are tossed in the garbage; it will be your quality, written report that will last. It will be the culmination of your work that makes that impression in your fellow scientists' minds' that you can be relied on as an *expert*.

One key component of a quality report is the abstract. An abstract is a concise summation of your experiment as a whole. It is usually found at the beginning of an academic article as a means of enabling the reader to decide if the more tedious details found in the whole of the report are worthy of further examination. They may decide to read the rest of the article (which is desirable) based solely on how clear and concise your abstract is. The abstract is also a helpful service for your busy, fellow scientists to see if you have information even related to what they seek for their own research. If the abstract is done well, the assumption will be the whole report will be done well. If the whole report is done well, your chances of being accepted as a reliable authority increase. -Which of course, is the whole point of being a scientist to begin with. Who wants to be a "scientist" that nobody ever heard made any significant contribution to the world?

To make the lasting impression and to solidify your status as an expert, be sure to offer a quality written report that includes a clear, concise abstract to entice your readers to continue reading the whole article (report).