How to Write a Science Abstract

Directions: Select and carefully read a Science article**. Use “EasyBib” or “Noodle Tools” to cite the article at the top of your paper. Then write a two-paragraph paper to summarize what you read and how the information is useful to you or the public.

*How many Abstracts will I write?*  
one (1) per week

*When are they due?*  
every week, at the beginning of the last day of class

*How long does each Abstract have to be?*  
complete work = minimum of 14 sentences  
bibliography + 7-sentence (min.) summary + 7-sentence (min.) critique  
*If the article is too short to write 7 sentences per paragraph, choose another.  
The rubric is on the back of this page.

Frequently Asked Questions:

*Why do I need to write Abstracts?*  
During research, scientists report studies’ conclusions in short Abstracts. Reading science articles and writing Abstracts helps students communicate knowledge with others. You’ll use this skill in high school and college, too.

*What topics?*  
Choose any science topic that interests you!  
ex: nature, global climate change, health, cloning, scientists, insects, fossils, biogas, new discoveries, genetically-modified organisms, etc...

*Where do I find articles?*  
Find links to great articles on this page or use the online MS Symbaloo page.

**What kinds of sources can I use?**  
Use newspaper/magazine/scientific journal articles, online journals, books (fiction or non-fiction), pamphlet, interviews with an expert, guest speakers, science TV programs, movies, class videos, but do not use encyclopedia articles.

*Can I share my article with others?*  
Sure, but the Abstract must be YOUR original writing. Write so a classmate could understand.

Who is my audience?

3 Components of a Science Abstract:

1 BIBLIOGRAPHY/CITATION: top of the page  
This tells about the author of the article you read: author, title, year of publication, name and number of journal. Use “Noodle Tools” or “EasyBib” for proper format.

2 SUMMARY: Paragraph 1 (“What did the article say?”)  
Start by clearly stating the topic of the text/source. Summarize the article in a minimum of 7 original sentences. Include the purpose of the study, the process, findings, and conclusions. Use details from the article, but always paraphrase.

3 CRITIQUE: Paragraph 2 (“How does this article apply to me?”)  
React to the information in the article in a minimum of 7 original sentences. Note the article’s strengths and weaknesses using evidence. Support your reasoning with details and examples from your own life, your past knowledge, and from the article.

Ex: Explain why the ideas in the article are valid or invalid.  
Examine how the information was helpful, interesting, and useful.  
Address possible author biases, views that prevent fair and impartial consideration of an issue or situation.  
Examine how the information ties to what you already understood or how it changes your previous thinking.