

## Project Abstract Peer Review Instructions

You have been instructed to write an abstract for the project you will be completing for this course (this might be your thesis itself, the thesis proposal, or an individual article that you plan to submit to a journal). Based on your knowledge of abstract-writing that you have gained this term, please evaluate your peer's abstract on both global and local levels.

Over the course of the term, we have looked at a few resources for abstract-writing and précis-writing (n.b. Some writing professionals use these terms interchangeably, although some, as indicated by one of the websites you read, discern small differences between the two). Please refresh your memory of the criteria for abstracts (see the link on your syllabus from September 14<sup>th</sup>). Below are two additional sources that might remind you of some of the central criteria of scientific abstracts (one is a British and very user-friendly website and the other is from George Mason University's Department of Biology):

<http://www.squidoo.com/thesisabstract>

<http://classweb.gmu.edu/biologyresources/writingguide/Abstract.htm>

So, in your memorandum to your peer, point to particular items on the previous websites we've viewed as well as the new ones above to give your peer guidance on what he and she might need to improve to satisfy the requirements of an effective thesis abstract. Be sure to discuss the overall abstract (global comments) and the issues that exist on the sentence-level ("local" comments). Good luck!

P.S. If you are working on your Thesis Proposal (this is for **Omar** and **Shoba**), please modify the above instructions to suit your project (since you will not be including an abstract necessarily with your finished work). I know Omar will be working on the "Significance" section of his proposal and I believe Shoba will be working on the "Introduction," or something of this sort. When you peer-review each other's work, please offer comments on both global and local levels, as I have indicated above. Use your best judgment in evaluating the efficacy of your peer's work so far and provide helpful comments for revision.