TIPS ON WRITING A PROJECT ABSTRACT, from Intel ISEF

A project abstract is a brief paragraph or two (limited to 250 words or 1,800 characters) highlighting and/or summarizing the major points or most important ideas about your project. An abstract allows judges to quickly determine the nature and scope of a project.

The abstract should include the following:

a) purpose/hypothesis of the experiment

b) procedure

c) data summary/analysis

d) conclusions

- Focus only on the current year's research.
- Leave out details and discussions.
- Use the past tense when describing what was done. However, where appropriate, use "active" verbs rather than passive verbs.
- Use short sentences, but vary your sentence structure.
- Use complete sentences. Don't abbreviate by omitting articles or other small words in order to save space.
- Avoid slang and use appropriate scientific language.
- Use proper syntax, correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

AVOID A REWRITE
- Focus on what you did, not on the work of your mentor or of a laboratory in which you did your work.
- Do NOT include acknowledgements, self-promotion or personal references. Don't name the research institution and/or mentor with which you were working and *avoid mentioning awards or honors* (including achieving a patent) in the body of the abstract.
- Be sure to emphasize the current year's research. A *continuation project* should only make a brief mention of previous years' research (no more than a sentence or two)