

<b>Building a Good Science Abstract: Examples Compared</b>		
<p>(1) Divide the total <b>WORDS</b> roughly into quarters:</p>	<p>(2) Describe each <b>TOPIC</b>:</p>	<p>(3) Then review your draft and <b>REVISE</b> it to follow the <b>BETTER</b> alternative examples here:</p>
25%	<p>Purpose: what you wanted to do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WEAK:</b> this project explored whether adding vegetable oil to soil helps a plant grow better.</li> <li>• <b>BETTER:</b> this project explored whether giving primroses a mixture of olive oil and water instead of water alone increases leaf size.</li> </ul>
25%	<p>Methods: what you did</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WEAK:</b> ...watered with both one cup of water and 2.5 ml of vegetable oil...</li> <li>• <b>BETTER:</b> (1) poured a mixture of 250 ml of tap water and 2.5 ml of olive oil into each pot weekly (2) an amount estimated from liquid fertilizer instructions, and (3) measured the tip-to-tip horizontal size of each plant's leaves at their widest location with a ruler.</li> </ul>
25%	<p>Results: what you found</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WEAK:</b> plants watered with vegetable oil grew better.</li> <li>• <b>BETTER:</b> water-only plants increased their maximum leaf width on average by 0.85 cm (ranged from 0.6- to 0.9-cm increase) while water-plus-oil plants increased their maximum leaf width on average by 4.57 cm (ranged from 3.5- to 5.5-cm increase).</li> </ul>
25%	<p>Conclusions (discussion): so what</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WEAK:</b> plants will grow better if vegetable oil is added...</li> <li>• <b>BETTER:</b> olive oil contains hydrocarbon molecules (fatty acids) that green plants use as extra nutrients...could be tried on food crops.</li> </ul>