**SESSION 10: THE ABSTRACT**

**Criteria J: The Abstract (Up to 2 points)**

**(*To be written after your draft).***

**The formal abstract should be a synopsis of the essay, rather than an overview or summary. This synopsis should contain the research question, the scope of investigation, and the conclusion reached. The “scope of the investigation” refers to the key points in the text, and the sources used to present them,. Word count should not exceed 300 words.**

**(*And this should appear in the lower right hand corner of your paper at the end of your abstract.)***

**The purpose of the abstract is**: to help researchers find information quickly and easily. If a researcher wants to find a good source for a chosen topic, he can read the abstract to see if a particular article or book is going to be able to give him whatever he needs, rather than having to read an entire work.

**For the extended essay, your abstract should** give your examiner a quick snapshot of your essay so that he can follow the direction you intend to take. Therefore he can get an idea of what to expect when reading your essay.

**It also** enables your examiner to see that you have done some planning and that you know your essay well enough to be able to reduce all your information into its most important component parts.

**\*NOTE:** The IB Guide tells us the abstract is a “**pass-fail**” activity. That is if **any** of the required items are missing you will receive a 0 for this criteria.

**Here are the required items:**

1. **The abstract should contain 3 paragraphs:**
2. **Paragraph one** should include (the “business” paragraph)

**The statement of purpose**

**The research question**

**The thesis statement**

1. **Paragraph two** should include:

The **key points** you intend to make.

The “terms of measurement” in your research question should give you the basic ideas for these.

The **sources used**.

For these it’s good to include references to both primary and secondary sources.

Don’t list your whole bibliography.

Select those sources you used most frequently, those sources that show opposing ideas, and those sources that represent a variety of media.

1. **Paragraph three** should include:

**Findings:**

Here you should **refer to your thesis**

Whether or not it has been supported **by your research.**

**(And why or why not).**

1. **Word count** for the abstract only should be inserted at the lower left of the page and should **not exceed 300 words**.

**ACTIVITY: Let’s look at some abstracts and see if we can evaluate them through an examiner’s eyes.**

**Set up your chart on a piece of lined paper.**

**Excerpt #: Paragraph 1 Paragraph 2 Paragraph 3**

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**WHAT TO DO:** Does the student **pass** or **fail?**

**Read the excerpt.** Decide whether **all required items are included** in each paragraph.

If they are included, **place a check mark** under the paragraph. They need to have all three check marks if they are to “Pass”.