Abstract Formatting Guide for 2017 Women in Science

As part of the terms of your summer stipend, it is required that you submit an abstract with your research results, not to exceed 400 words and include a picture/diagram. The abstracts are collected and published every year in a compendium, Women in Science, providing an overview of the breadth and depth of summer research activities at Smith College. This publication receives a fairly broad distribution to agencies that provide funding for your fellowships, faculty members, prospective students and their families, and college administrators. It is also made available electronically as part of our website at http://www.science.smith.edu/publications/.

Your abstract should follow standard journal format for your discipline and include an introduction, methods, results, and discussion. The introduction provides an overview of the central question or objective of your project and states why it is an important question. In the methods section, a brief description of your research methodology is included, explaining how you conducted your research. Outlining your findings and what was learned during your research is supported under the category of results. Finally, your discussion should typically indicate that your work was both a technical and scholarly endeavor. It is here that you explain and analyze your results in the context of your central question and/or objective. How do your results contribute to your field? What further questions do these results lead you to ask? This is also an appropriate section in which to include opportunities you have had or will have to present your work and findings to other students, or at an external event or conference. Also, indicate if your work will continue into the new academic year as a special studies or honors project. After carefully proofreading your abstract, it should be reviewed by your faculty advisor prior to submission. The abstract you submit in your post-SURF survey will be forwarded to your supervisor.

Please include a picture or diagram in your abstract. We present your picture or diagram in color on our website, but we also print some copies of Women in Science in black and white. Make sure, therefore, that your picture or diagram is intelligible in grayscale!

Abstract length: 300-400 words max (ideally, your whole abstract, including images and credits, will fit on one page)

Submission: Further instructions on submitting your abstract, along with any formatting instructions will be made available, late June or early July 2017.

Examples:
You can view the 2015 WIS publication here: http://www.science.smith.edu/blog/2016/07/21/summer-research-fellowship-program/

Our preference is for abstracts that are complete on one page.

Last update: 4/28/17 HM