

Descriptive Abstracts

Purpose

These ~100-150 word abstracts describe a source of information (e.g., a report, research project, or book) or resource (e.g., tools, instruction manuals, best practices, how-to's, etc.).

Components

Background: What does your reader absolutely need to know to understand the scope and reach of your work?

Purpose: What did you set out to accomplish? Why did this work need to be done? What purpose does it serve?

Focus of Work: Briefly describe what you did, created, or compiled. Who was/is your audience? Are there implications for other communicators?

Good Example

Astronomy Best Practices in Using Galileoscopes to Foster Science Interest by Stephen M. Pompea, Richard Tresch Fienberg, Douglas N. Arion, and Robert T. Sparks

The Galileoscope team designed and produced a high-quality telescope kit ideal for use in schools and outside-of-school education programs; over 265,000 Galileoscopes are in circulation. This telescope has proven effective in exciting the interest of youth, and especially talented youth, in astronomy, optics, and the process of science. Since the International Year of Astronomy 2009, the Galileoscope has proven to be a robust component of numerous teacher professional development workshops, after-school astronomy clubs, formal education programs, astronomy engagement programs, and engineering and optics programs. These diverse programs worldwide have required the creation of many different public outreach and educational program models. Most of these programs were designed to excite students about astronomy, to encourage astronomy observations, and to facilitate an understanding of astronomical optics and image formation. We will describe best practices and programs for public outreach that are adaptable, localizable, and that can be evaluated to assess their effectiveness.

Now consider your own work. Outline your abstract in the boxes below:

Background

Purpose

Focus of Work