Abstract

MECHANICS:

An abstract should be on the page immediately following the title page.

Center title: Abstract.

<u>Double</u>-space, using same font and margins as essay.

Do *not* number the page (or the title page). Begin pagination (page 1) with the essay.

The abstract should be one paragraph, approximately 150-200 words in length.

CONTENTS:

Write the abstract *after* completing the paper so that you know the paper's thesis and supporting arguments. Be sure to include more than paper's topic; provide your argument.

Do not write in future tense, e.g., "The paper <u>will</u> show that . . . ."

 The paper is completed: it <u>does</u> certain things, not <u>will do</u> them.

Do not use first person, e.g., "I argue that . . ." or "My paper shows that . . . ."

First person and future tense suggest that the paper does not exist—but it does. Plus, both lead to a focus on the paper's contents rather than its argument.