Abstracts should follow the SSSAJ abstract guidelines which read:

"Abstract. An informative, self-explanatory abstract, not exceeding 250 words (150 words for notes), must be supplied on a separate page. It should describe specifically why and how the study was conducted, what the results were, and why they are important. Use quantitative terms. Formatting must be as a single paragraph. References cannot be cited. The title (without author identification) must precede the abstract. A list of any abbreviations used in the text should follow the abstract, alphabetized according to abbreviation. Do not include a list of key words."

From the document “Instructions to Authors: Soil Science Society of America Journal”