What is Abstraction and Why is it so Important?

Abstraction is the process of simplifying concepts so only the essential elements are left. One benefit of doing this is that you can easily reuse code in multiple places without copy-pasting entire blocks, which can lead to errors. Also, if there are changes that need to be made to this area of code, they only have to be done once. The copy-paste method would require finding every place the code was used, and remembering exactly how it was edited. This would invite easily preventable errors into the program.

Classes are an example of abstraction. Below are a few lines of code from my Journal project. These two objects condense many lines of code into just two.

        //makes a new entry object

        Entry entry = new Entry(dateText, newPrompt, userInput);

        //Adds entry to journal

        journal.AddEntry(entry);