

# Undergraduate Research Scholar Program Abstract Guidelines



Use these tips to help prepare your abstract for submission. Students must submit abstracts of their faculty-mentored research, scholarly, or creative activity. *Reminder: For group projects, only one abstract and one submission are required.*

## **Abstract Content**

### **What Is an Abstract?**

- An abstract is a single, well-developed paragraph, and should be exact in wording.
- It is a summary of your presentation and your entire project.
- It should have an introduction, body and conclusion.
- It highlights major points of the content and explains why your work is important, what your purpose was, how you went about the project, what you learned, and what you concluded.
- It must be understandable to an interdisciplinary audience.
- It does not include any charts, tables, figures, citations, or other supporting information.

### **Abstract Format**

Many abstracts follow a format similar to this:

1. The problem to be investigated.  
One to two sentences that state why the project was undertaken.
2. The purpose of the study.  
One to two sentences that outline the nature of the project and how it differs from other, similar projects.
3. The methods.  
One to two sentences that summarize the important methods used to perform the project.
4. The major results.  
One to two sentences that summarize the major results—not necessarily all the results—of the project.
5. The interpretation.  
One to two sentences that summarize your interpretation of the results.
6. The implications.  
One sentence that summarizes the meaning of your interpretation—what is important about these results.

## **Abstract Mechanics**

Abstracts should be:

- In Microsoft Word.
- In 12-point Times New Roman font.
- No more than 250 words in length.
- Single-spaced and a single paragraph.

Include the following in the abstract heading:

- Title of the paper. If your title includes Greek letters, scientific notation, bold, italics, or other special symbols or formatting, make sure they are formatted correctly when you submit the abstract.
- Full name of the student author(s). Please include any additional undergraduate co-authors, whether they are presenting with you or not.
- Name(s) of the faculty mentor(s).

## **Sample Abstracts**

### **Humanities Abstract**

Cristina Peri Rossi: The Postmodern Transgressions of Parody and Ambiguity

Jane Doe

Mentor: Dr. Who

Uruguayan writer Cristina Peri Rossi's first book, *El libro de mis primos* (The Book of My Cousins, 1969), is compared with her later novel, *La nave de los locos* (The Ship of Fools, 1984), to suggest how an authoritarian society can be criticized through parody and then rebuilt on the foundations of a philosophy of ambiguity, similar to Lyotard's vision of the postmodern. Dissatisfaction with the power structures of tradition and validation of marginality are characteristics of such vision, which inscribe Peri Rossi in the postmodern current of Latin-American literature. The postmodern condition agrees with the major conclusions drawn from both works. First, tradition is viewed as a decadent state of affairs that needs to be brushed aside, for it does not respond to genuine human concerns and, in fact, has frustrated and destroyed them. Parody is the tool used to dispose of tradition. Secondly, there has to be an acceptance of the margins, of the other. This presupposes a tolerant ambiguity of inclusion that is capable of rebuilding instead of destroying, and does so by using the very materials of the other. What *El Libro* destroys *La nave* rebuilds. *El Libro*'s mission is to do away with the atrophied waste of patriarchal order, while *La nave* seeks to fill up the resulting void with one possible solution: the conciliation of opposing forces by a tolerant philosophy of inclusion.