

# Writing an Abstract for University Research Day

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WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

# Is University Research Day for You?



## All Students Welcome

Undergraduate and graduate students from every school and program are encouraged to participate.



## Faculty & Staff

Faculty members and staff conducting research or creative work are invited to showcase their projects.



## Any Stage of Work

Projects can be finished, actively in progress, or just beginning to take shape.

If you're asking questions, exploring ideas, or creating new knowledge — the answer is **yes**, this event is for you.





# What Is an Abstract?

An abstract is a short, focused description of your research project that serves as a window into your work.

It clearly explains:

- what you're studying
- why it matters
- how you approached it
- what you've discovered or are currently learning

# Preparing your abstract

## STEP 1



### Context: Setting The Stage

#### **Orient Your Reader**

What is the bigger picture your research connects to?

#### **Identify the Gap**

What's missing from current understanding?

#### **Explain the Importance**

Why is this issue worth exploring?

## STEP 2



### Purpose: Define The Focus

This is where you clearly articulate the specific purpose of *your* project.

What exactly are you investigating, testing, building, or exploring?

#### **Key principle**

*If a smart reader from another field can't grasp your central question, it needs more clarity.*

## STEP 3



### Approach: How You Did It

Briefly describe the methods and processes you used to carry out your project.

Focus on giving readers a clear sense of your approach without overwhelming them with technical minutiae.

#### **Remember**

*clarity matters more than exhaustive detail.*

## STEP 4



### Findings: What You Learned

#### **Complete Projects**

Highlight your key results and most significant discoveries.

#### **Work in Progress**

Describe emerging patterns, preliminary observations, or expected outcomes.

#### **Connect Back**

How do your results address what you set out to explore?

## STEP 5



### Impact: Why It Matters

This is where you help readers understand the broader significance of your work.

- What should readers take away from your research?
- What new questions or possibilities does it open up?
- How does this work advance understanding in your field?
- What implications does it have beyond your immediate discipline?

# What Makes a Strong Abstract?

University Research Day abstracts are carefully evaluated to ensure quality and accessibility. Here are the key criteria reviewers consider:

## Clarity

Is the abstract well-written, organized, and easy to follow? Can readers from other disciplines understand the core ideas?

## Engagement

Does it capture attention and invite curiosity? Is the writing compelling and purposeful?

## Logic

Does the abstract follow a coherent structure? Do the ideas flow naturally from context through to impact?

## Accessibility

Is specialized terminology explained or avoided? Can a broad academic audience engage with the work?

## Impact

Does it clearly articulate why the research matters and what contribution it makes to knowledge?

# Before You Submit

You're almost ready to share your work with the university community! Before submitting, make sure to review all the essential details on the official University Research Day website.



## Get Feedback

Share a draft with a mentor, colleague, or peer, and take advantage of resources like the Writing Center



## Review Word Limits

Confirm the maximum word count for abstracts to ensure your submission meets requirements.




## Find Submission Links

Locate the online submission portal and familiarize yourself with the process.



## Check Submission Deadlines

Mark your calendar with both abstract submission and final presentation deadlines.

 **Important:** Details can change from year to year, so always consult the current University Research Day website for the most up-to-date information.



# University Research Day

*We'll see you there!*

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