

Undergraduate Research & Engagement Symposium

Title & Abstract Style Guide

Consult these guidelines when creating a title and abstract for your URES poster or presentation. Having an appropriate and informative title and abstract will **help your prospective audience know what to expect** and will **draw the attention of the people who will be most interested** in what you share.

Title:

Your presentation or poster title should be **short but informative**, catching the reader's interest and making them curious to see the rest. Include at least one or two key words that will help identify your topic and/or research question. One handy approach is to include a short title and a **brief, explanatory subtitle**, but this is not required. A title **can** be clever or fun, but **must** still be informative.

Some example titles:

- Invasive Bunyip Populations in Midwestern Wetlands
- Investigating Economic Instability and Social Policy in the Gotham Metropolitan Area
- 2B, or Not 2B: A Survey on Pencil Lead Preference
- Restoring a Nineteenth Century Printing Press
- Never Meet Your Heroes: Challenges and Lessons from a Television News Internship
- Reflections on Visiting an Abandoned Carnival

Abstract:

Your abstract should be one paragraph, and a **maximum of 100 words long**. The goal of an abstract is to briefly tell the reader **what your presentation will be about**, and **why it is important**. It is something like the blurb on the back cover of a book: your reader is deciding which presentations and posters to visit, and you are telling them why they might want to visit yours. In some ways, they are like a very short paper, and should include the following elements:

- 1. Introduction:** A sentence or two introducing your topic.
- 2. Discussion:** The "body" of your abstract. The content of this will vary based on the type of presentation or poster you are making. For a research presentation, you may discuss your methods and give a preview of your results or findings. For a presentation on a community engagement experience, this may just be giving further background on what you did or what aspects of your experience you will be presenting on. Give whatever information will help your reader understand what they will be learning if they choose to visit your presentation or poster.
- 3. Conclusion:** A sentence or two wrapping up. Often, this is where you will explain why your presentation is important: this may be a description of how research findings may impact your field, a brief reflection on what you learned from an experience, or something else

that tells the reader why they should care about your presentation. In other words: explain why **YOU** think your presentation is important.

An example abstract:

Restoring a Nineteenth Century Printing Press

This presentation will describe the experience of restoring a printing press originally created in the nineteenth century. The printing press, which was donated by a private owner, was in severe disrepair. Over the course of the 2021 Fall semester, we worked in a group of five students, cleaning and repairing the existing components of the printing press and replacing missing components. Finally, we were able to present the reassembled press and demonstrate its restored functionality. Through this experience, we were able to deepen our own understanding of historical mechanical engineering and educate others about what we had learned.