



Undergraduate Research Conference April 21 – 24, 2009

All poster, oral, film and script presentations must include an abstract available to judges prior to the public presentation of the research. Copies will be available to the public on the day of the presentation. Send your abstract electronically to annie.donahue@unh.edu no later than April 13, 2009. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words.

Guidelines for writing abstracts:

An abstract is a short summary of your completed research. If done well, it makes the reader want to learn more about your research.

These are the basic components of an abstract in any discipline:

- 1) Motivation/problem statement: Why do we care about the problem? What practical, scientific, theoretical or artistic gap is your research filling?**
- 2) Methods/procedure/approach: What did you actually do to get your results? (e.g. analyzed 3 novels, completed a series of 5 oil paintings, interviewed 17 students)**
- 3) Results/findings/product: As a result of completing the above procedure, what did you learn/invent/create?**

4) Conclusion/implications: What are the larger implications of your findings, especially for the problem/gap identified in step 1?

However, it's important to note that the weight accorded to the different components can vary by discipline.

Helpful links and sample abstracts:

This link has a very thorough description of each of the components named above. It is aimed especially at engineers but is relevant for all disciplines:

<http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~koopman/essays/abstract.html>

This link is especially relevant for natural scientists:

<http://darwin.bio.uci.edu/~sustain/Abstract.html>

This link has samples of abstracts used for Undergraduate Research in a variety of disciplines (History/Social Science, Humanities, Engineering, and Biological Sciences):

<http://research.berkeley.edu/ucday/abstract.html>

This link has more samples of Undergraduate Research in the Arts, Humanities, Science and Social Science:

<http://www.sccur.uci.edu/sampleabstracts.html>

This material adapted from UC Berkeley guidelines for Undergraduate Research - <http://research.berkeley.edu/ucday/index.html>