

Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creativity (SURC)

[formerly *Temple Undergraduate Research Forum & Creative Works Symposium (TURF-CreWS)*]

Criteria for College of Liberal Arts (CLA) SURC Abstracts (250-word limit)

Below are the criteria by which reviewers evaluate abstracts of projects that CLA instructors nominate for SURC. The abstract must overtly state the asterisked (*) items; reviewers use the abstract's contents to infer non-asterisked items. The nominating instructor must read and endorse the abstract before its submission to SURC. If reviewers accept the project for SURC, nominees should work with the nominating instructor to finalize their SURC poster or oral paper presentation; oral presentations have a 10-12-minute time limit.

Note: Please limit abstracts to 250 words. Abstracts exceeding that limit will not be considered.

1. ***Clarity of Purpose:** Does the abstract clearly state the specific question or problem the researcher(s) sought to answer/address through the research?
2. **Social Relevance of Topic:** Does the abstract state (or is it otherwise clear) why the research issue is, was, or will a socially relevant/important concern for society?
3. ***Clarity of Research Method(s)/Process:** Does the abstract clearly state the method(s)/process by which the research was conducted--how the researcher gathered information to answer question(s) in #1?
 - A. For empirical (data-driven) studies: Is there a clear, overt statement about how and from whom the researcher (1) collected data (e.g., experiment; questionnaire; interviews; observations; lit review) and (2) analyzed data (e.g., t-tests; ANOVA; regression; content analysis)?
 - or**
 - B. For critical analysis/theory-focused projects, does the abstract clearly state the method(s) of inquiry (e.g., theory-driven critical analysis [Which theories?]; archival research [Which archives?]; close reading of text(s); lit review [From what sources?]; content analysis, etc.)?
4. ***Clarity of Findings and/or Conclusions Summary:** Does the abstract provide a clear summary of (1) the most relevant findings and/or (2) conclusions--that is, what the findings mean/possibly mean? Given the project's purpose and method(s) of inquiry, do these conclusions seem plausible/make sense?
5. **Clarity and Plausibility of The Researcher's Implications**
 - A. For social-behavioral projects: Does the abstract give plausible implications of the research—that is, does it tell us (1) what new information these findings have produced and (2) what society should now do differently given these findings/research results?
 - B. For humanities-based projects: Does the abstract suggest implications for society, the study's discipline(s), or for those who teach, study, or participate in the discipline(s)?

Check your abstract to be sure it complies with all the criteria and the word limit, please.

Link to SURC website: <https://undergradstudies.temple.edu/research/symposium>

END