

Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creativity

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

Criteria for College of Liberal Arts (CLA) SURC Abstracts

Below are the criteria by which reviewers evaluate abstracts for CLA SURC nominees. Abstracts must overtly state the asterisked (*) items; reviewers utilize abstract contents to infer the other items. Given that research methods and criteria for research excellence vary by discipline, SURC nominees must work with their nominating professors to finalize both the application abstract and--if reviewers accept the abstract--the final paper (10-12 minutes) or poster. **Word limit for abstracts: 250 words**

1. ***Clarity of Purpose:** Does the abstract overtly and clearly state the specific question/problem the researcher(s) sought to answer/address?
2. **Social Relevance of Topic:** Does the abstract state (or is it otherwise clear) why the research issue is now, once was, or will be an important concern for society?
3. ***Clarity of 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 the question(s) in #1?
 - A. For *empirical studies*: Is there a clear/overt statement about how the researcher (1) collected data (e. g., survey, experiment, interviews, observations, review of literature, etc.) and from whom/what and (2) analyzed data (e. g., t-tests, ANOVA, regression, content analysis, etc.)?
 - or**
 - B. For *critical analysis/theory-based projects*, does the abstract clearly state the method(s) of inquiry (e.g., theory-driven critical analysis [What theories?]; archival research [What archives?]; close reading of text(s); literature review [What types of literature?]; 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 or possibly mean--and is that summary plausible, given the project's purpose and method(s) of inquiry and analysis?
5. **Clarity and Plausibility of Implications**
 - A. For social-behavioral projects: Does the abstract suggest plausible implications--that is, (1) what these findings reveal that society did not already know and (2) what society should do/think/believe differently given that we now have this study's 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)?

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