

WUURD SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We are pleased at your interest in submitting to the Washington University Undergraduate Research Digest (WUURD). Of the many different academic journals available, WUURD allows undergraduates to present their original faculty-mentored research directly to the Washington University faculty and undergraduate community. As we reach a broad audience, we are interested in publishing articles from all undergraduates, regardless of their areas of academic interest. Feature article submissions should be written in the *Chicago Manual of Style* (15th edition) format. Feature article submissions should also be approximately 2,000-3,000 words (10-15 pages) in length. It is expected that manuscripts will be well organized and presented for an educated general audience of undergraduate peers and faculty.

FEATURE ARTICLE GUIDELINES

Manuscripts will be evaluated in general based on their originality, academic, as well as, practical contributions. Furthermore, manuscripts should use proper grammar, be accurate, credible and use proper referencing. The author should also be available and willing to work with the editor to prepare the manuscript for our audience.

Paper Structure

Your paper must include a Title Page, an Abstract, Key Terms, Acknowledgements, and Works Cited sections, in addition to the body of the Manuscript. The following sections describe in detail these parts of the paper.

Submission Agreement

The submission agreement can be found on the Undergraduate Research web site at <http://ur.wustl.edu> Your faculty mentor must approve and sign this page.

Abstract

An abstract is a summary of your paper and whole project. It should be single-spaced, one single paragraph, and no more than 250 words. It also highlights the major points of content, explains why your work is important, how you research your problem, and your conclusions. It is a well developed paragraph with exact wording and must be understandable to an interdisciplinary audience. It does not include any charts, tables, figures, or other supporting information.

The abstract format should be as follows:

1. The problem investigated. Take one to two sentences that state the problem or question you investigated.
2. The purpose of the study. One or two sentences that state the importance of the study; how it is different from other similar investigations, and why we should care about your project.
3. The methods. One or two sentences that summarize the important methods used to perform the project. Go easy here and keep it simple.
4. The major results. One or two sentences that summarize the major results of the research project. You do not have to go into all of the results, only the major ones.
5. The interpretation. One to two sentences that summarize the interpretation of your results.
6. The implications. One sentence that summarizes the importance of your results; what we can learn from your results, etc.

Key Terms

This is a list of up to seven alphabetized words or short phrases that are specific to your research. They are words or terms that might be unfamiliar to the reader and fully explained in your paper.

Acknowledgements

In this section thank people/faculty mentors who have supported the research and acknowledge funding sources where applicable.

Works Cited

Papers must contain the numbered endnote style of referencing.

General Outline for Manuscript

1. Introduction. The introduction provides readers with the information they need to understand the rest of the paper. You should be sure to include:
 - The basis and background of the project
 - Define terms that may not be familiar to readers outside of your discipline
 - Present the research question and objectives
 - Summarize previous research and current status of the topic

- Discuss the significance of the research
 - Describe the general methods used to explore your hypothesis
2. Manuscript Body. Describe here what your research entailed. Use the accepted terminology in the field, but be sure to define your terms. In this section you will also describe your methods.
 3. Results. State your results clearly and succinctly. Do not represent raw data; use text, tables and figures to summarize your data. Thoroughly discuss, interpret and analyze the implications of the findings. Describe any problems you encountered (if any), and explain any unexpected findings.
 4. Conclusions. Provide a conclusion that restates the question(s), results and broader significance of the research. Plainly and succinctly discuss the impact of the results to enlighten readers, regardless of their background of study. Also address any implications of your research beyond just the scope of your research discipline.

Submission Checklist

- My article answers the question “What can we learn from my research?”
- I have explained any technical or scientific terms that are unique to my research area.
- I have spell-checked my paper, and checked for grammatical errors.
- My paper uses numbered endnotes and is formatted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style (15th ed.)*.
- I have read and signed the submission agreement.
- I have had my faculty mentor read my paper.
- I have had my faculty mentor read and sign the submission agreement.