OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Abstract Worksheet

The final draft should be one continuous paragraph (no headings, maximum of 300 words) that addresses the following questions.

1. What is the central research question/purpose of the research?

2. What is the relevant context for this research? Why is it necessary or important?

3. What are the key terms for the study that may require definition?

4. What is the research methodology being used in this project? What are the important details of the protocol that can help the audience understand the scope of the project?

5. What are the conclusions of the project, either final or anticipated?

6. What are the overall implications of this study? The real-world significance? Why should we care?

Abstract Tips

- Stick to the word limit (usually 250-300 words).
- Include the central research question/purpose of the research and its context.
- Include the research methodology being used in the project (how is the question being answered?).
- Include conclusions, either final or anticipated (what have been the most significant findings thus far?).
- Include the implications of the research (i.e. interpret your results for a broader audience. What do they mean? Why are they significant and meaningful?).
- Consider your audience and use language appropriate to that audience (for example, define terms for a general audience, and use appropriate technical terms for a specialized audience).
- Use brief, concise, and specific language. Use active verbs when possible, and avoid using first person (i.e. "I").
- Put your abstract through at least three revisions.
- Get feedback from your research mentor and/or other people in your field.
- Attend one of the OUR's abstract writing workshops and/or bring your abstract to the Writing Center.

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