MISSOURI S&T UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

ORAL PRESENTATIONS RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES

Students can modify the following guidelines as it is appropriate for their discipline or research project.

Abstract

A short abstract (minimum 75, maximum 150 words) should immediately precede the introduction. The abstract should give a clear indication of the nature and range of the results contained in the paper.

Introduction

The introduction should describe your reason for doing the research and provide background information for the reader. This section should answer the following questions: What is the nature of the problem? What has been done to address the problem? How does your project specifically address the problem?

Main Body

The main body of the paper is the method, results and discussion section. The main body of the paper should be between 5 and 10 pages in length. It shall contain a description of the research or experimental design, the basis of the research or experimental design, research outcomes or experimental outcomes, and an explanation of those outcomes.

Nomenclature (if applicable)

If the paper contains a section explaining the nomenclature used in the text, this section should have its own heading and it should immediately precede the section of Acknowledgements and/or References.

<u>Acknowledgements</u>

The credits should be given in this section. It would be appropriate to mention the faculty advisor and the source of funding for the project here.

References

All references should be listed, at the end of the paper using a citation style appropriate to your research discipline. (i.e. APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.)

Typing and Organization

Papers should be single spaced. All margins should be 1 inch. The type style chosen should be readable. Use 10 or 12 point. Justify the right margin if your word processing package does it well; leave unjustified if not. All mathematical formulae must be typed or neatly printed in black ink. They should be numbered consecutively.

Reflection on the Learning Experience (On a separate piece of paper)

- 1. Describe your foundational understanding of how research is conducted in your discipline.
- 2. How have you expanded your understanding of the informational resources available and how to best use these resources?
- 3. Describe the knowledge you have gained regarding the fundamentals of experimental design.
- 4. Describe how you have learned to interpret the results of your research project.