

# Abstract Guidelines

## Abstract guidelines for humanities, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics:

1. Clearly state the central research question and/or purpose of the project.
2. Provide brief, relevant scholarly or research context (no actual citations required) that demonstrate its attempt to make a unique contribution to the area of inquiry.
3. Provide a brief description of the research methodology.
4. State conclusions or expected results and the context in which they will be discussed.
5. Include text only (no images or graphics)
6. Be well-written and well-organized.

## Abstract guidelines for visual arts:

1. **Clearly state the central research question and/or purpose of the project.** (Provide an artist statement.)
2. **Provide brief, relevant scholarly or research context (no actual citations required) that demonstrate its attempt to make a unique contribution to the area of inquiry.** (In the statement, cite your influences and inspirations: other established artists; movements that are referenced or serve as inspiration; political/ cultural/ social issues that the work responds to; personal events, adventures, medical diagnosis; etc.)
3. **Provide a brief description of the research methodology.** (What techniques were used? It could be as basic as oil painting on primed canvas, or a more in-depth explanation of the experimental process.)
4. **State conclusions or expected results and the context in which they will be discussed.** (What did you learn? What was successful? What are things to be addressed in future pieces? How does this piece fit into your portfolio or future works?)
5. **Include text only** (no images or graphics – to be submitted at a later date)
6. **Be well-written and well-organized.** All of these issues should be addressed in your abstract. However, as each covers a unique influence that alters the interpretation the work, speak more to one or two components of your “research” in depth: Was the work a response to Art History? Or was the focus the experimental process? While it is assumed you will very briefly respond to all of these requirements, it is also expected that only a few will be the central focus of your statement.

### **Abstract guidelines for performing arts:**

1. **Clearly state the central research question and/or purpose of the project. A statement discussing compositional or performance aspects of the work.** Why did you compose this work or choose this work to perform? What aspects of music are you exploring?
2. **Provide brief, relevant scholarly or research context (no actual citations required) that demonstrate its attempt to make a unique contribution to the area of inquiry.** How does the composition and/or performance advance the development of your creative output?
3. **Provide a brief description of the research methodology.** Provide a brief description of the musical work from a compositional or performative standpoint.
4. **State conclusions or expected results and the context in which they will be discussed.** How did the composition of the work or preparation for the performance affect your musical understanding and output?
5. **Include text only (no images or graphics).** Include a link (box, google drive, dropbox, etc) to a recording of the work and a score of the work if required for performance.
6. Be well-written and well-organized.

## What is an abstract?

Communicates:

1. What was done?
2. Why was it done?
3. How was it done?
4. What was found?
5. What is the significance of the findings?

## Big Picture Abstract Tips

- Make sure there are no typos, especially in your name and email address
- Plan ahead – make a timeline for when everything will need to be done
- Abstracts are text only and don't typically include citations
- Give your mentor plenty of time to review with you
- RCCIC includes many topics; consider your audience

## General Guidelines

- Clearly state the central research question and/or purpose of the project.
- Provide brief, relevant context that demonstrates a unique contribution to the area of inquiry.
- Provide a brief description of the research methodology.
- State conclusions or expected results.

## More specifically (1-2 sentences on each):

- Background: What issues led to this work? What makes this work interesting or important?
- Aim: What were the goals of this work? What gap is being filled?
- Approach: What went into trying to achieve the aims (e.g. experimental method)? What was actually done?
- Results: What were the main results of the study (including numbers, if appropriate)?
- Conclusions: What were the main conclusions? Why are the results important? Where will they lead?

## Good Example

An Assessment of Oral Health on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (*derived from AISES National Conference example*)

*Background: Oral health is an area of concern for Native people. Our Center is focused on helping to identify ways to improve Native health. We identified the Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota population as an area of focus for oral health study and support.*

*Aim: We assessed the oral health of the Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota people, described a new oral health assessment tool for Indigenous people, and suggested ways to improve Native oral health.*

*Approach: The Check Up Study team of dentist and dental hygienists performed examinations of teeth and oral soft tissue for a convenience sample of 292 adults and children. Screening personnel counted the number of decayed, filled, sealed and total teeth, used probes to measure periodontal disease and screened for oral lesions.*

*Results: Half of adults had 27 or fewer teeth. Sixteen percent of adults had at least one tooth with a pocket depth greater than 6mm. Participants had higher numbers of decayed teeth and lower numbers of filled teeth than those reflected in Indian Health Service cross-tribe aggregated data from 1999.*

*Conclusions: Amongst Lakota people of Pine Ridge, our study documented a high prevalence of cavities and periodontal disease, numerous people with missing teeth and unmet dental needs. Future studies of oral health related behaviors and access to oral health care are needed to explain the dental, periodontal and soft tissue problems that adversely affect the Oglala Lakota.*

## Still Conducting Your Research?

- You should be able to write the background, aim and approach sections. If not, perhaps the project is not ready for presentation – talk to your advisor.
- For the results and conclusion sections, you can state the types of data you will show during the NCUR presentation and the types of conclusions you will be able to draw. Do not give your expected conclusion if you don't have the data yet, but just the category.
  - Example: *The Check Up Study team of dentist and dental hygienists will perform examinations of teeth and oral soft tissue for a sample of about 300 adults and children. Screening personnel will count the number of decayed, filled, sealed and total teeth, use probes to measure periodontal disease and screen for oral lesions. Our poster will give the results of the our screening data and compare the data to the Indian Health Service cross-tribe aggregated data from 1999. We will draw conclusions about the prevalence of cavities and periodontal disease, missing teeth and dental needs amongst Lakota people of Pine Ridge. These conclusions can inform future studies of oral health related behaviors and access to oral health care that adversely affect the Oglala Lakota.*