

Lindenwood University: Student Academic Showcase



Sample Abstracts

The following are examples of abstracts from several different fields of study. Length can vary depending on the conference or journal requesting the abstract. The important thing to focus on is the content of each abstract. What are the key points which need to be included?

- › For **scholarly projects (research, explorations, or proposals)**, the abstract should define the scope of your research, your research methods, and the main claims resulting from this work.
- › For **creative projects**, the abstract should describe the nature of your project and define the main accomplishments achieved because of the project.
- › For **civic engagement projects**, the abstract should discuss the service project conducted and its impact on the campus, community, or individuals served.

For the purposes of submitting to the Student Academic Showcase, the title of the project/paper/presentation and the name of the author(s) should be entered in the designated places on the form. The body of the abstract, 100-150 words, is entered in its own box. Additionally, be sure to review the [category](#) that best fits your project for judging.

“Mental Health in Japan and the United States: A Look at Differences and Similarities”

Whitney Ford, Psychology (Faculty Sponsor: Michiko Nohara-LeClair)

Not only has research into mental health in Japan and the United States highlighted the differences between these two countries, but it has also shown the many similarities they share. This research paper focuses on the top three disorders that were reported for each country, a comparison of disorder prevalence between the two countries, preferred treatment types, and degree of stigma expressed within each culture. The research concluded that Japan and the United States share two of their top three diagnosed mental health disorders and they also share similar preferences for treatment

options. The notion that suicide rates in both countries are a downward trend within certain demographic groups has also been supported and mental health is slowly becoming a more widely accepted concept. With the work that has been done so far, each country is moving in the right direction to support those with mental health conditions.

Judging Category: Exploratory Project

“The Human and Environmental Concerns of the Ohio Train Derailment using Geographic Information Systems”

Lillian Nix, Geographic Information Systems (Faculty Sponsor: Tara Vansell)

After the Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio poses many long-term concerns for humans and the environment. Over a hundred thousand gallons of hazardous chemicals were released into the air, soil, and waterways after the train derailed and started a fire. Norfolk Southern performed a controlled burn of the chemicals after residents were told to evacuate. Was this really the best solution? Geographic Information Systems (GIS) datasets and tools can be used to get a better understanding of the impact the accident had on the community. Overlaying datasets of waterways and cropland onto a map can help one understand the environmental impact. Additionally, datasets from the ArcGIS living atlas of household income and health insurance coverage can bring insight to humanitarian concerns. GIS is an extremely helpful tool in gathering and assessing data to further research and to inform the public.

Judging Category: Creative Project

“Dwarfism on Dwarf Millets”

Andrew Martin, Anna Carter, Ryan Eckerman, Danian Castillo, Caleb Horton, Mellissa Magathlan, and Anthony Landrigan, Biological Sciences (Faculty Sponsor: Joshua Neely)

Our research team studied the effect of Dwarf mutations on Millet plant growth. To study these effects, a plant hormone named Gibberellin was periodically added to the plants. Gibberellin is a hormone used in plants to grow, elongate, and flower the plant stems. With the addition of Gibberellin to millet plants, we compared the elongation of Millet stem length (cm) to the Millet wild-type generations. We hypothesized the implementation of Gibberellin would boost the growth rate and size of dwarf mutated millet. Results will be discussed.

Judging Category: Original Research Project

“Anti-Queer Policy Impact on Suicide Rates Among Queer Youth”

Zoe Fleschman, Political Science (Faculty Sponsor: Jeanie Thies)

An increase in anti-queer policy is likely to have dangerous ramifications, specifically suicide rates of LGBT+ youth in America. This research proposal features a three-pronged approach that begins to explore the consequences of this type of policy. The proposed hypothesis, ahead of the study, supposes that states with harsher anti-queer policies will have higher rates of attempted or completed suicides among children ages 12-18. Through a collection of suicide rates in states that have increased anti-queer policy compared to those that have queer-right protections, through school district surveys that help determine who is specifically impacted, and through in person interviews that examine personal effects. The goal of this research is to determine if anti-queer policy negatively impacts children's mental health. With this approach, causation could possibly be determined that could aid in preventing suicidal rates among teenagers.

Judging Category: Proposal Project

“Women Say WHAT? Podcast”

Olivia Pilsing, Interdisciplinary Studies (Faculty Sponsor: Gabriela Romero)

My piece is a podcast that discusses the common Hispanic stereotypes and how they affect Latin American women in the workforce. My podcast discusses a fictional harassment story of a Latina woman in the project management field. Although the story itself was fictional, research was done in prior assignments to identify which stereotypes are associated with Latinas and how they can affect the treatment of Hispanic women in the workforce. The podcast "Women Say What?" features 4 people-- the host Kathy Schaffer, the Latina project manager Alejandra Sanchez, a Psychologist and Behavior Analyst Stewart Growinski, and a Media Producer Mark Smith. To make the podcast more realistic, each person featured on my podcast was given a different voice to easily differentiate who was talking. Overall, the purpose of this project was a way to raise awareness for the treatment of Latinas in the workplace.

Judging Category: Creative Project

“Sociology of Sport: Art Analysis ‘The Shadows Below’”

Marissa McGraw, Sociology (Faculty Sponsor: Suzanne Stoelting)

My painting represents a multitude of different aspects related to the sociological perspective of the issues pertaining to professional sport. These “easter eggs” throughout the painting are reflective of specific readings we discussed in Sociology of Sport class taught by Suzanne Stoelting. I chose these topics to highlight in the piece because I felt as though they had the most impact on me and how I see the world of professional sports in general. Themes such as the theoretical lens of critical and

conflict theory, classism, and sexism are what I chose to focus on as they are what I believe to be the most prevalent issue in the sociology of sport.

Judging Category: Original Research Project

“Renaissance Fashion of England and Italy”

Alexis Litteken, Fashion Business & Design (Faculty Sponsor: Chajuana Trawick)

This research project is aimed at exploring the popular fashion and beauty styles of Renaissance-era England and Italy, two nations that held immense power both politically and socially during the period. Examining the influences behind contemporary trends of the Renaissance can aid in the understanding of what people were like, allowing a look into beliefs, activities, or messages a person might convey through their clothing. From the Medici family to a more middle-class family, this project will explore how a nation’s fashion can speak to more than just current style, but to the ideological, political, and societal movements being experienced.

Judging Category: Exploratory Project

“Method Development for Analysis of Dietary Supplements Using Flame Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy”

Elijah Hongsermeier-Baxter, Chemistry (Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Firestine)

Dietary supplements are typically ingested by customers who already have a well-balanced diet and an awareness of a personal, specific deficiency or fitness goal serving as their reason for doing so. Accordingly, the accuracy of the composition of a supplement on its label is paramount in determining if said tablets are worthwhile for customer use. A method was developed to determine the accuracy of the nutrition facts labels on two different brands of iron and zinc supplements. Samples were prepared via dissolution in nitric acid followed by filtration, dilution, and analysis via flame atomic absorption spectroscopy. A standard curve method was used. Results of experimental trials were analyzed against the standard curve developed and results were compared to the manufacturers’ label.

Judging Category: Original Research Project

“LU Memory Makers: Dementia and Fine/Gross Motor Skills”

Mackenzie Holtman & Raphaëlle Margueron, Psychology (Faculty Sponsor: Sara Bagley)

LU memory makers was a Service-Learning project for PSY 33000: Learning & Memory which allowed us to organize an event for the dementia community. For our event, we

had activities that used fine and gross motor skills so that the participants were able to practice these movements that would benefit their physical and mental health. We used knowledge we learned in class on how dementia affects the brain and how physical changes occur over a lifetime to enhance our understanding of people living with this disease.

Judging Category: Civic Engagement Project

“A Final Letter You Won’t Read”

Victoria Lane, Writing (Faculty Sponsor: Shana Youngdahl)

"A Final Letter You Won't Read" is a short, experimental, creative nonfiction piece of epistolary memoir focusing on the suicide of a friend at fifteen and the author's never-ending, ever-evolving process of moving forward in the years since, taking him along with her in some ways and, in others, leaving him behind. Choosing between the two is never easy. This piece is one half of a conversation with no possibility of an answer wherein the author works through the complexities of her long-term grief and shame, left behind in the wake of a decade's-long absence. Being honest in a way she was unable to reach with her friend in life, the author writes one last letter that he will never read.

Judging Category: Creative Project