

The University of Virginia
Undergraduate Research Network



Annual Undergraduate
Spring Research Symposium

University of Virginia Undergraduate Research Network Annual Spring Research Symposium

Judging Method & Selection Process

The Undergraduate Research Network has a standard set of guidelines for selecting Semi-Finalists and Finalists.

Selection of Semi-Finalists

The selection of Semi-Finalists will be based on applicant's abstracts.

This initial assessment of applications will be evaluated by the Selection Committee (usually the URN Symposium Committee).

On page two of this document is the "Abstract Evaluation Guide".

Please note that all final decisions are rendered through a Conference, where each member of the selection committee can weigh in on the selection of Semi-Finalists.

Selection of Finalists

The selection of Finalists will be based on applicant's oral presentation.

This will be done via "Trial Presentations" where Semi-Finalists are notified and scheduled to present his/her presentation to the Selection Committee.

On page three of this document is the "Presentation Evaluation Guide".

Please note that all final decisions are rendered through a Conference, where each member of the selection committee can weigh in on the selection of Finalists.

At the Symposium... Selection of a Category Winner

The selection of a winner for each category at the Research Symposium will be based on oral presentation (Powerpoint) to a faculty panel of judges.

On page four of this document is the "Judges Evaluation Guide".

Please note that all final decisions are rendered through a Judges' Caucus process, where judges will group at the end of category presentations to decide a final winner.

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Internal Use Only

Abstract Evaluation Guide (Semi-Finalist Selection Guide)

This Abstract Evaluation Guide is used to screen all eligible applications.
This guide will help select the Semi-Finalists.

The selection of Semi-Finalists will be based on the applicant's abstracts.

_____ **A. Clarity & Quality of Abstract (15 points maximum)**

_____ **B. Quality of Research (25 points maximum)**

Includes (but is not limited to) the procedure & methods adopted during the course of the research project

_____ **C. Exhibition of Knowledge of the Field of Research (25 points maximum)**

_____ **D. Generation of Interest to a Public Audience (15 points maximum)**

_____ **E. Creativity, Originality, & Scientific Validity (10 points maximum)**

_____ **F. General Assessment of Research Project (10 points maximum)**

_____ **Abstract Total Score (100 possible points) *please double check calculations.***

Please note that this abstract scoring guide is only an aid in determining Semi-Finalists.

Final decisions are achieved through a Selection Committee Conference.

During the Conference, the committee will discuss merits and weaknesses of particular applications and projects to reach a final consensus.

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Trial Presentation Evaluation Guide (Finalist Selection Guide)

This evaluation guide will help select the Finalists.

The selection of Finalists will be based on the applicant's oral presentation.

_____ **A. Clarity & Quality of Presentation (15 points maximum)**

_____ **B. Scientific Thought & Quality of Research (30 points maximum)**

Thoroughly covers – background (why conduct this research?), methodology, results, statistical analysis (as applicable), conclusions, and citation of scientific journal/literature.

_____ **C. Exhibition of Knowledge of the Field of Research (20 points maximum)**

_____ **D. Successful balance of explaining technical aspects to a broad audience
(15 points maximum)**

The ability to explain technical aspects of his/her research to a broad audience base.

_____ **E. Creativity, Originality, & Scientific Validity (10 points maximum)**

_____ **F. General Assessment of Research Project (10 points maximum)**

_____ **Presentation Total Score (100 possible points) *please double check calculations.***

Please note that this presentation scoring guide is only an aid in determining Finalists.

Final decisions are achieved through a Selection Committee Conference.

During the Conference, the committee will discuss merits and weaknesses of particular applications and projects to reach a final consensus.

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Judging Evaluation Guidelines Suggested Evaluation Criteria for Judging Finalists

While judges may deviate from the guidelines provided, all judges must base his or her decision on reasonable criteria of merit. There will be a Caucus at the end of presentations to render a final winner of the category.

- _____ **A. Scientific Thought & Quality of Research (30 points suggested)**
Thoroughly covers – background (why conduct this research?), methodology, results, statistical analysis (as applicable), conclusions, and citation of scientific journal/literature.
- _____ **B. Exhibition of Knowledge of the Field of Research (25 points)**
- _____ **C. Creativity, Originality, & Scientific Validity (20 points)**
- _____ **D. Successful balance of explaining technical aspects to a broad audience (10 points)**
The ability to explain technical aspects of his/her research to a broad audience base.
- _____ **E. Clarity & Quality of Presentation (10 points)**
- _____ **F. General Assessment of Research Project (5 points)**
- _____ **Presentation Total Score (100 possible points) *please double check calculations.***

Please note that this presentation scoring guide is only an aid in determining a winner from Finalists. Final decisions are achieved through a Judges' Caucus process at the end of category presentations. During the Caucus, the judges will meet and discuss merits and weaknesses of particular projects and presentations to reach a final consensus.