

Abstracts/proposals vary by discipline and there is “no one size fits all” template. Still, it can sometimes be helpful to see some examples. Below, you’ll find some successful abstracts from UGS 2017, all from different disciplines. Remember: these are not templates, but rather samples for your information.

Sample #1: History (Oral Presentation)

“The Great War Propaganda: Edith Cavell's Impact on Feminism in the United States”

The goal of this project was to analyze World War I propaganda with specific relation to Edith Cavell, a British nurse who was executed for helping soldiers escape from German occupied Belgium to neutral Holland. I sought to understand how her death affected public sentiment, as well as how it politically influenced the Allied powers in World War I. Unlike the significant cross section of work primarily devoted to Edith Cavell, I sought to highlight the influence her death had on the American perspective of World War I. Furthermore, I explored the unintended influence that Cavell’s death had on the American feminist movement.

My research was primarily conducted at The National Archives in the United Kingdom. In total, I analyzed roughly 300 original documents and sources for the project. I also heavily utilized the Library of Congress’ extensive digitized newspaper archives to examine American newspapers. I also used secondary sources such as biographies, novels, and supplemental websites.

Cavell’s death stimulated a renewed movement of military enrollment in Britain and was exceedingly instrumental in drawing the United States into World War I. Additionally, my research aims to argue that her death provided both American feminists and anti-feminists a forum in which to express their beliefs. Altogether, Cavell’s execution allowed the controversial, but meaningful conversation of feminism to percolate in the American public’s mind. Women in the United States, as well as Great Britain, seized this tragic, but unique opportunity in history to bring their issues to the attention of the media.

Sample #2: English (Oral Presentation)

"Female Agency in Relation to Law in Medieval Romances"

A notable feature of medieval literature, specifically Arthurian Legends, is the ideology of behavioral and social codes, including gentility, honor, and chivalry. When these codes are broken in literary texts, a judicial process normally takes place. Generally, these proceedings include: an accusation, a formal trial, a judge and jury, witnesses, an appointed task, and finally, a ruling. This research intends to closely examine these legal procedures when sexual misconduct, primarily rape, has occurred.

There are four major constellation points creating the astronomical map of my thesis research, including: medieval romances, adjudication processes, sexual misconduct, and female agency. While there is extensive literature published researching almost all four central subjects independently within the historical time frame of the medieval romance (1150-1500), the exception being sexual misconduct, there are few works that establish a sound connection between all four topics. The intent of my research is to bridge that missing gap through a comprehensive review of the four subjects

The critical objective is to place these texts in their historical context by focusing on the historical agency of women in legal proceedings during the middle ages. Such research will help determine to what extent these literary representations reflect the historical reality of gender dynamics and their relationship to court proceedings or whether these literary representations instead offer their readers imaginary alternatives to gendered oppression. The proposed value of this research has many dimensions. First, it may provide a deeper understanding of the literary genre of medieval romances. Second, it may reveal important aspects of widespread gender oppression in the medieval era. Finally, examining these past literary representations of adjudicating sexual misconduct might also shed light on contemporary debates concerning the normative legal processes adjudicating sexual violence.

Sample #3: Polymer Science (Poster)
“Triplet-triplet Annihilation: Transitioning from Rubbers to Glasses”

Upconversion (UC) is the transformation of low energy light, or photons, to higher energy photons. Triplet-triplet annihilation (TTA) is the only UC process by which low power, non-coherent light sources can be utilized extending UC to applications such as photovoltaics, bio-imaging and OLEDs. TTA-UC uses two chromophores, a sensitizer, which absorbs the incident photons and transfers its energy to the second molecule termed an emitter. This research project aims to probe how the bimolecular energy transfers in the TTA-UC scheme differ in glassy and rubbery epoxy amine polymer networks. In order to covalently incorporate the emitter into the polymer network, an amine functionalized diphenylanthracene (diamine-DPA) was synthesized. Epoxy-amine networks comprising of Epon-825, Jeffamine T-5000 (for rubbery materials), Jeffamine D-400 (for glassy materials), palladium (II) octaethylporphyrin (PdOEP) and diamine-DPA were fabricated with various chromophore concentrations. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was used to determine the glass transition temperature (T_g) of the networks. Photoluminescence spectroscopy was used to probe the direct ($\lambda_{ex} = 375$ nm) and upconverted ($\lambda_{ex} = 544$ nm) fluorescence for each film. Although, all films showed blue upconverted emission between 400-500 nm, phosphorescence from the PdOEP between 600-700 nm was also observed indicating the triplet-triplet energy transfer from sensitizer to emitter is not fully efficient. In addition, the maximum upconversion intensity for glassy materials was observed at a much higher DPA concentration than that for rubbery materials. The DPA fluorescence efficiency was found using an integrating sphere. In general, the fluorescence quantum yield decreased as the DPA concentration was increased. Fluorescence lifetimes of DPA were determined using time-resolved fluorescence spectroscopy. The results of this project help determine how the photophysical processes in TTA-UC proceed in rubbery to glassy polymeric materials.

Sample #4: Psychology (Poster)
“Parenting behaviors in relation to risky behaviors in at-risk adolescents”

When studying child development, parenting behaviors play a pivotal role. The purpose of this study is to document perceptions of parenting behaviors (e.g., closeness, discipline) among youth at a residential boot camp for at-risk adolescents, and to relate those perceptions to youths' self-reported history of substance use and antisocial traits (e.g., disregard for rules and the rights of others, egocentricity, thrill seeking, and history of criminal behavior). This study adds to research on parenting behaviors, which has typically been focused on more normative youth, by examining parenting among troubled youth and relating it to problematic outcomes. Data collection for this study was conducted via computerized surveys administered to the boys in groups at the boot camp facility. A diverse sample of 273 boys (61% White, 30% African American) provided data about their use of drugs, their antisocial traits, and perceptions of how they were parented. Preliminary results indicate that youth who reported that their parents/guardians were less involved in their lives had engaged in more marijuana and other drug use. Youth who reported that their parents used positive reinforcement reported less marijuana and other drug use. Additionally, father involvement is directly related to elevated levels of aggression in the adolescent males. Finally, parental involvement (particularly maternal) is correlated with elevated levels of aggression, an increased number of drugs the adolescents used, and the presence of more antisocial traits. The final results of this study could be used to implement strategies to improve child-parent relationships.