

## Guide for Creative Presentations

The 2018 USSU Symposium is an opportunity to for students from diverse disciplines to present their research. The University understands research as including “scholarly and artistic work” equally. Although many students in programs like Drama, Fine Arts, or Music may not always think of their work as “research,” in an interdisciplinary setting like the Symposium, it is important to communicate your work in such a way that visitors and judges from non-artistic backgrounds can conceive of your work as a research project alongside natural science or social science projects.

What makes research “research”? What all research projects have in common is the basic process of creating knowledge, called the **research arc**. It begins with questioning, moves on to investigate the question, and concludes by sharing findings.



As an artist, dramatist or musician, consider the questions below to frame how you think and talk about your creative project.

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### *QUESTION: Articulate your creative vision as a research question.*

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- What does your piece explore and why?
- What inspired you to make this piece?
- Why did you choose to explore this theme/aspect and not others?
- What is the message of your piece? What do you hope your audience will experience and take away from your art?
- Who do you intend to see/experience it and why?
- What is your aim when it comes to what you want to evoke emotionally in your audience?

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### *INVESTIGATE: Explain how and why you explored your question/topic the way you did.*

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- What medium did you choose and why? Were there others you considered?
- What choices did you have to make throughout your creative process? How did they impact the final piece?
- What did you discover in the process of creating it and why is that significant?
- What did the experience of making the piece mean to you as both an artist and researcher?

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### *SHARE: Take your work beyond the studio.*

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- See “Guide for Student Presenters” for general guidelines on participating at the Symposium.

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*Helpful Resources*

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- **Article:** “Writing an Artist’s Statement, Explaining the Inexplicable”
- Read a fellow U of S student’s experience merging art and research on the Undergraduate Research Initiative’s [website](#).
- **Video** exploring arts as research from the University of Applied Arts, Vienna

### *We want your feedback!*

Got suggestions? Tell us how we can improve this resource for future students presenting their artwork. If you’re interested, consider having your artwork featured as a sample in this package for future events.

Simply **contact us** at: [undergraduate.research@usask.ca](mailto:undergraduate.research@usask.ca) or (306) 966-3233.

@usaskUGResearch   @usaskUGR  
research.usask.ca   @usaskresearch

Undergraduate Research Initiative  
Office of the Vice President Research