

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES FOR ORAL and POSTER Presentations in Humanities, Social Sciences and STEM

In 300 words or less:

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.

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Humanities

WRITING ABOUT BLACK COLLEGE EXPERIENCES

Jordan Williams and Dr. Cassie Kircher, Department of English, Elon University, 314 E Haggard Ave, Elon, NC 27244

For many black students, attending a majority white school, also known as a Predominantly White Institution (PWI), adds an extra layer of complexity to the undergraduate experience. For some of these black students, their awareness about societal struggles such as race and class are magnified due to their status as minority students, especially in comparison to their white peers. It can be difficult for these students to adjust to college when they feel isolated, both in terms of their presence on campus, and the lack of representation of other black students in college, but especially at a majority white school. For my project I conducted interviews with six black students from two private PWI's in North Carolina, and their responses served as inspiration for the creation of three short stories that focus on common themes that shape the experiences of black students during their first year. These stories, that deal with topics such as loneliness, imposter's syndrome, academic struggles, and adjusting to independence, are written to appeal to new adults in the traditional college age range of 18-22 years old. The ultimate goal of my project is to increase the representation of voices often marginalized in literature and inspire conversation about concerns faced by black students across the American higher education system.

Social Sciences

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE--ATTITUDES AND ADVERTISING

Lauren Adamson, Stephanie Turin, Social Work, Westmoreland County Community College, 145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA 15697

As a society, we would like to think that attitudes toward domestic violence has changed over the last 50 years, but do the statistics and how the media portrays it demonstrate this? In the past, when media changed their portrayals of such things as cigarette smoking and drug driving, the numbers of smokers and incidents of drunk driving have decreased. Is that a possibility with domestic violence? Domestic violence has typically been seen as violence between spouses. Gender based violence is a relatively new term describing a subcategory of domestic violence in which violence is directed at someone solely on their gender. My project will look at how media, specifically through print advertising, has impacted our attitudes about gender-based violence over the last century. I will look at previously conducted research as well as conducting my own to find out how intricately entwined our own views are with what we see in the media. This research will trace and review the evolution of attitudes toward and about gender-based violence over the last fifty years. The purpose of this research will be to look at the reciprocal relationship between media portrayals of gender-based violence as it relates to public perception. It will look for a "feedback loop" between these portrayals in the media and the impact it has on altering the views toward the subject, which in turn would impact the media's portrayal of such actions. The data gathered will include the use of historical documents, attitude surveys, and current media. The anticipated conclusion will be that our attitudes have changed very little in the last fifty years, and while advertising has varied the delivery method, the message about gender-based violence is much of the same of the 1950's.

STEM

HEAT-INDUCED DENATURATION OF OXYGENATED MYOGLOBIN AT VARYING PH

Ty Montgomery, Morgan Denzer, Frank Kiyimba, Ranjith Ramanathan, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Oklahoma State University, 120 Agriculture North, Stillwater, OK 74078

The objective of this study was to investigate the heat-induced denaturation of oxymyoglobin (OxyMb) by absorbance and fluorescence properties in-vitro. Myoglobin is the oxygen storage protein located in animal muscle; OxyMb is the oxygenated form. It is responsible for the interior color of cooked meat. Consumers use coloration as an indicator of safety, but meat color defects make it unreliable. The denaturation of myoglobin results in a decrease in absorbance at 525 nm, the isosbestic point for myoglobin. Preparation of OxyMb at a pH of 5.6 and 6.4 uses sodium hydrosulfite-mediated reduction of metmyoglobin. Both OxyMb solutions heat for 10 minutes at temperatures: 65, 70, 73, and 75°C. OxyMb denaturation increased with temperature. OxyMb solution at 5.6 pH had a more significant percent denaturation than OxyMb solution at 6.4 pH. The analysis of fluorescence properties is in progress. Characterizing myoglobin denaturation will help to understand cooked meat color defects.