

Re:Search

The Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal at Illinois

Call for Proposals

Re:Search, the Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal at the University of Illinois, is seeking submissions for its Spring 2015 publication!

Students currently enrolled as undergraduates at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from any discipline or major may submit to *Re:Search* as long as the submissions are in accordance with our vision of the journal as a site of critical analysis. We encourage students to submit literary, media, or cultural criticism. We accept revisions of papers written previously for a class, current or completed honors theses, and even projects conceived outside the classroom. The most important criterion for acceptance is that the author offers fresh, new critical analysis of a text, film or other work. We welcome an analysis of texts from any period or language, given that modern English translation is provided for any material quoted within the submission. Our audience includes university students, instructors, administration, alumni, and prospective students.

Please note that students whose work is accepted by the journal will be **required to work with a faculty mentor** to revise and develop their research throughout the remainder of Fall and Spring semester. We recommend that you contact a faculty member prior to submitting your work. Further instructions will be provided if the proposal is accepted.

This journal is supported by the English Department and the Office of Undergraduate Research and is launched in collaboration with the University Library.

If you are interested in submitting a work, we recommend that you attend our first **Proposal Workshop** from **5-6 p.m. on Friday, October 9** in **room 104 of the English Building**.

Online Journal Platform

ugresearchjournals.illinois.edu/index.php/ujlc

Microsite

publish.illinois.edu/undergradliterarycriticismjournal/

Facebook

www.facebook.com/litcritjournaluiuc

Formatting Guidelines

All submissions must follow these formatting guidelines:

- 3-5 pages total (750-1,250 words), double-spaced
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1" margins
- Word format (.docx)
- Numbered pages (in footer)
- Remove any self-identifying references, such as your name, from the Word file before submitting to ensure anonymity in the review process.

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Submission Guidelines

The proposal will consist of three parts. Please include the tentative title of work, the name of your potential faculty mentor and the following:

- **Part I (required):** *Prospectus: Explaining Your Project*
 - Write a proposal that meets the following requirements: identifies a specific research question, explains why this question is worth studying, and identifies the texts (primary, critical, etc.) you will use.
 - Devote this section to identifying the questions your project seeks to address, and demonstrate how the selected texts engage with those questions. Better proposals explain the **stakes of your argument and research**.
 - See our **Aims & Scope** for an overview of the journal's intellectual mission statement. Also view the **Peer Review Rubric** below for the criteria that our student reviewers consider during the Peer Review process. Additionally, we recommend reading the articles published in previous years to gain an idea of the scope of the projects.
 - Your prospectus should be a polished example of your writing. Proofread for spelling and grammar.
- **Part II (optional):** *Excerpt from Previously Written Paper*
 - If your proposal is based on a completed paper from a previous course, you are welcome to include an excerpt that highlights a crucial interpretive framework of your paper or emphasizes a valuable observation on a selected text.
 - This section is optional. If you choose to include an excerpt, keep in mind that the proposal submission must remain within the 3-5 pages requirement.
- **Part III (required):** *Bibliography*
 - Include a bibliography of texts relevant to your project. There should be a minimum of 1 primary source, a minimum of 2 secondary sources, and a maximum of 5 sources total.

Relevant Documents

I. Aims & Scope

Re:Search: The Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal at Illinois is an undergraduate produced, peer-reviewed open-access online journal designed to annually publish works exclusively by undergraduate students. It seeks to create a place for undergraduate students to showcase and publish literary criticism within a greater academic discourse while nurturing a collaborative community between faculty, administration, and undergraduate students. Students from any discipline may submit to *Re:Search* as long as the submissions are in accordance with our vision of the journal as a site of critical analysis.

We encourage undergraduate students to submit literary, media, or cultural criticism. We accept revisions of papers written previously for a class, current or completed honors theses, and even projects conceived outside the classroom. The most important criterion for acceptance is that the author offers fresh, new critical analysis of a text, film or other work. We welcome an analysis of

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texts from any period or language, given that modern English translation is provided for any material quoted within the submission. Although theory is not the journal's primary topic, we encourage submissions that refer to, reflect on, and engage with theory to provide richer and more nuanced analyses. Our audience includes university students, instructors, administration, alumni, and prospective students.

Visit our website to view our complete Aims & Scope.

II. Peer Review Rubric

1. *Quality of the project's conception* – Is a central question stated clearly and interestingly? Are terms well defined, the critical context grasped, and the larger stake of the argument articulated?
2. *Originality of the project* – How does this project advance critical conversations? What distinguishes this project from other work on these texts or in this theoretical area? Does it attempt to advance critical conversations? Does it shed new light on the text?
3. *Scope of the project* – Is the project do-able in the time available, at the length proposed, and with the resources stated? If not, could it be re-scaled, or resources added?
4. *Impact of the project* – Is the question framed for specialists in a certain author, or does it engage issues that might interest readers of literature more generally?

III. Bibliography

Format: The works cited will be in MLA format.

We are looking for a maximum of **5 items** on your bibliography, with a minimum of **2 secondary sources** and **1 primary source**. These items should come from scholarly sources, including but not limited to academic, peer-reviewed journals and books from university presses.

Generally, we advise avoiding dissertations and editorial/opinion articles unless they are relevant to your analysis. This works cited will serve as a sample of your ongoing research.

Submission Process

- The deadline to submit a proposal is **5:00PM on Friday, November 13.**
- You will **register as an Author** and submit your proposal to the online journal. We will host a workshop on **October 23** (time and location TBA) to go over the online journal system.
- Students will be notified via email if their work is accepted **after Thanksgiving Break.**

For more information about the *Re:Search* or the submission process, please contact uiucritjournal@gmail.com.