How to Publish as An Undergraduate

Melissa Bender

University Writing Program
Writing Across the Curriculum
Publications

- Explorations: The UC Davis Undergraduate Research Journal
- Prized Writing
- UC Davis Health Student Review
Prepare to Submit

➢ Explore the publication websites

➢ *Explorations* [http://explorations.ucdavis.edu/](http://explorations.ucdavis.edu/)


➢ *Prized Writing* [http://prizedwriting.ucdavis.edu/](http://prizedwriting.ucdavis.edu/)
Prepare to Submit

- Develop a topic or choose a paper.
How do I start from scratch?

- Find a faculty sponsor
- Identify a topic
- Set goals and establish a timeline
- Write a proposal
Find a faculty sponsor

- From a class
- From an internship
Identify a topic

- From a class
- From a lab
- From an internship
- From a book or article
Set goals & establish a schedule

- Work with your faculty sponsor to create a calendar
- Set research & writing benchmarks and deadlines
  - Include time to revise & edit
- Work with a peer or small group
How do I start from scratch?

- Write a proposal
- Conduct research
- Draft your article
Write a proposal

1-3 pages:

- What’s the topic? (broad, general)
- What is your research question?
- What’s the thesis? (specific)
- What are the subtopics you will cover?
Conduct research

- Explore the literature. What has already been written on this topic?
- Take notes; create an annotated bibliography.
- Find or refine your angle on the topic.
Draft your article

- Work in sections; don’t be afraid to write out of order.
- Write often and for “low stakes.”
- Ask for feedback on schedule (from sponsor or peers).
How do I start from scratch?

- Find a faculty sponsor
- Identify a topic
- Set goals and establish a timeline
- Write a proposal
How do I work with an existing paper?

- Reverse engineer a proposal (1-3 pages).
- Revise your original paper (global changes).
- Conduct additional research.
- Re-draft your paper.
Reverse engineer a proposal

- 1-3 pages
  - What’s the topic (broad, general).
  - What is your research question?
  - What’s the thesis? (specific)
  - What are the subtopics you will cover?
Revise your original paper

- Cut down a long paper.
- Re-order sections or paragraphs to make the paper more compelling.
- Identify areas to expand or develop.
Conduct additional research

- Explore the literature. What has been written on this topic that you didn’t take into consideration in your last draft?
- What can you add to your paper to make it more compelling or persuasive?
- How can you refine your angle?
Edit your paper

Editing is not the same thing as revising.
- Revising = global changes
- Editing = local changes
Editing Areas

- Improve *paragraph* clarity and concision
- Make *paragraphs* flow logically (cohesion)
- Improve *sentence* clarity and concision
- Make *sentences* flow logically (cohesion)
- Vary *sentence* length and complexity
- Correct grammar and usage