Undergraduate Research Center Guidelines for the Short Video Description of Projects

The Undergraduate Research Center (URC) is this requiring this year that students applying for a Foundation Grant submit a short video description of their research or creative works project. (Please note that a video submission is not required for Supplies Grant applicants.) Only one video is needed per project.

The purpose of the video is to

- Verify students’ understanding of their project
- Demonstrate students’ ability to communicate their project’s purpose and design

Your video can be created using any platform (Youtube, Vimeo, One Drive, etc.). Make sure your video setting is public, so that anyone with the link may view it. When you fill out your application, copy and paste the URL to your video in the text box as shown below. Be sure to check the box as well.

I have created a 2 minute video for my proposal here is the link to the video:

video URL

Guidelines to Creating an Effective Video:

- Videos should be no more than 2 minutes.
  - Keep your video short and concise.
- First introduce the broader context of your field and the research related to your project.
  - As you go on, explain more specifically how this research relates to your project and your methodology. Then, state your specific research question(s).
  - After stating your specific question, relate it back to the grander scheme once more. Why is answering your question important to your field and society in general? Why should someone care about your project?
- Remember that your listener may be from outside your content area and unfamiliar with your topic.
  - Be sure to explain your topic in a general, understandable way. Avoid jargon whenever possible.
- Don’t worry about introducing yourself. Get right into describing your project.
  - You will be introduced as a researcher in other parts of your application, so don’t worry here.
- Write an outline, but not a script. Speak freely and openly.
  - People watching your video want to see that you deeply understand your project and are passionate about it more than they want perfect grammar and no stuttering.
- Find an appropriate space for recording your video. Try to find a quiet place free of distractions.
- PRACTICE! Run your presentation by your roommate, mentor, parents, friends, or even the URC staff. We are always here to help and guide you!