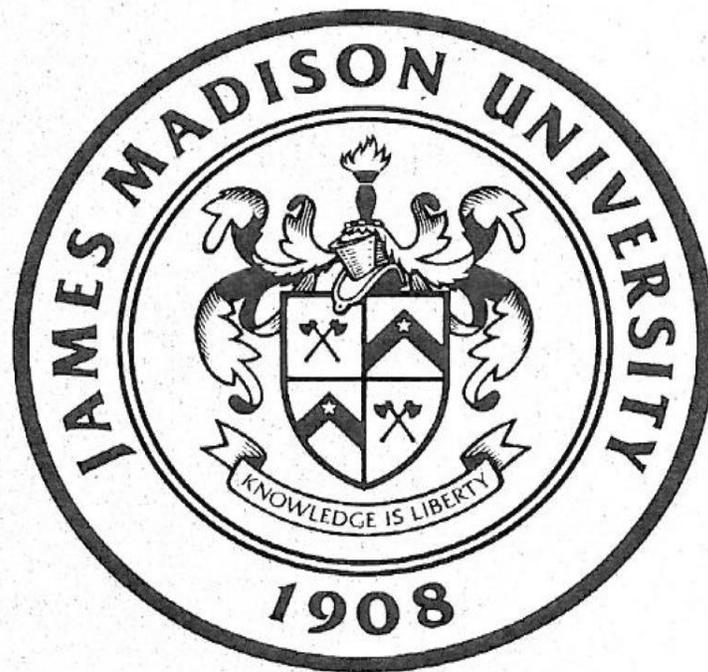


*Madison Journal of  
Undergraduate Research*



Volume 1, Spring 1994

# *Madison Journal of Undergraduate Research*

College of Letters and Sciences  
James Madison University

Volume 1

Spring 1994

The *Madison Journal of Undergraduate Research* is a student journal published each spring semester by the College of Letters and Science, James Madison University. The *Journal* publishes research manuscripts written by JMU undergraduates from all disciplines within the University. A central goal of the *Journal* is to emphasize to all JMU students the importance of research and writing throughout academia and the professions. Because it is committed to publishing manuscripts representing fields of study across the curriculum, the *Journal* offers all JMU students the opportunity to share with peers and faculty the significant research they have conducted in their disciplines.

Moreover, as required reading for all students registered for *English 102: Reading and Composition*, the *Journal* serves as a compendium of sound research which writing students should use as models of effective writing within their individual disciplines. Such model documents help students to understand how their peers successfully apply rhetorical strategies of organization, development, style, and format to produce clear, concise, and meaningful prose. Students can then apply these strategies to their own writing. Finally, the satisfaction of having published a research document in a quality journal reinforces in students' minds the importance of effective writing and motivates them to become better researchers, analysts, and writers—in effect, better *thinkers*.

Published each spring semester, the *Madison Journal of Undergraduate* is a collaborative effort by students enrolled in *English 393: Magazine Management and Editorial Policy* and *English 394: Magazine Design and Production*:

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Copies of the *Madison Journal of Undergraduate Research* are sold through the JMU Bookstore.

# Notes To Contributors

## Editorial Policy

The *Journal* strongly encourages JMU undergraduates to submit research works drawn from all disciplines within the university. To be accepted for publication, a submission must be well written and exhibit substantial research and analysis of information or data. The submission must be a research paper—that is, based on primary or secondary research and derived from a methodology that conforms to the standards of the author's discipline. A manuscript of publishable quality not only provides depth of coverage of existing research on a topic but also offers original insight into that particular subject. The work must support its central premise with sufficient research accompanied by sound analysis of that research. Information and data contained in the manuscript must be reliable and accurate as well as properly documented. Finally, the *Journal* will only consider and accept manuscripts that exhibit exceptional clarity, precision, and organization. Manuscript length is open.

Students enrolled in *English 393: Magazine Management and Editorial Policy* screen, select, and edit submissions each fall semester. Students enrolled in *English 394: Magazine Design and Production* design and produce the journal each spring semester. Submissions that are selected for publication and that come from technical areas receive technical reviews by editors with expertise in the relevant content areas. Authors whose articles are accepted for publication must collaborate with student editors during the process of preparing the manuscript for publication. The *Journal* retains copyright of all published manuscripts for up to five years after publication; however, authors may request return of copyright at any time after publication.

Contributors receive one complimentary copy of the *Journal* and a stipend of \$100.

## Submission Requirements

To be considered for publication, all submissions must conform to the following format guidelines:

- Submissions must include the author's name, address, telephone number, academic year, and major.
- Manuscripts must be submitted in triplicate, double-spaced, and typed or printed.
- Authors should include with the manuscript a self-addressed, stamped envelope, or the submission will not be returned.
- Submissions should adhere to the accepted organization and format of research papers from the author's particular discipline. Submissions normally include such fundamental components as a title, informative abstract (limited to 100 words), report body (consisting of introduction, results and analysis, and conclusion sections), and reference page.
- Authors must thoroughly document all information or data borrowed from outside sources. In documenting sources, authors should adhere to the accepted documentation style guide of the his or her discipline.
- All graphic aids (figures and tables) used in the manuscript must be of camera-ready quality.

The deadline for students to submit their research articles for the *Journal's* Spring 1995 edition is October 14, 1994.

Submit all manuscripts to

Dr. Peter J. Hager  
*Madison Journal of Undergraduate Research*  
Department of English  
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Harrisonburg, VA 22807  
tel: (703) 568-6133 or 568-6202

## Foreword

The College of Letters and Sciences enthusiastically joins the English Department in sponsoring the *Madison Journal of Undergraduate Research*. Like many other good ideas, the concept for the *MJUR* emerged from a conversation, in this case between myself and David Jeffrey, head of the English Department. We were exploring various means of encouraging research by undergraduates, since both of us believe in the high value of active learning. The College had just expanded and orchestrated its series of spring undergraduate symposia, and several departments had just added research-oriented courses, giving new emphasis to undergraduate scholarship, especially in the sciences and social sciences. It was time to think of other ways to stress this important kind of activity. Although the well-documented student essay had always been central to the humanities, their role in the college-wide commitment to undergraduate research had been less visible than that of the other divisions in the College.

Publishing a scholarly journal specifically for undergraduate researchers seemed both a natural and a vital contribution for the humanities to make. Moreover, it offered a way for the English Department to use its expertise in writing and editing to serve the entire JMU community of undergraduates. Such outreach to students in other disciplines has been characteristic of the English Department for many years, owing primarily to its venerable first-year writing program. The *MJUR* simply extends this tradition of cross-disciplinary collaboration to a higher level of student achievement.

I'm proud of this enterprise and would urge faculty members from all disciplines to kindle their students' interest in submitting scholarly essays to the new journal. To the students I would say, "Here is an opportunity to compete for space in a quality publication, very much as you might do in your career or graduate program after leaving JMU. Even if your essay is not accepted, the experience will teach you something about standards, about the accessibility of your work to a general readership, and about the whole process of achieving publication." Potential contributors can feel confident that the students who assemble and edit each issue, guided by faculty experts, will exercise sound judgment and a broadly inclusive view of research that encompasses all disciplines.

Jack Armistead, Dean  
College of Letters and Sciences

## Preface

The *Madison Journal of Undergraduate Research* is the result of the hard work primarily of 16 student authors, 22 student editors, and one faculty member, all of them concerned to produce work of the highest possible quality. The student authors deserve high praise; of course, their essays are the products of hard work and considerable intellectual and temporal expenditure. It is well to remember, however, that this journal is a collaborative effort and that editors also labor long and hard to ensure that the authors' essays appear to best advantage. Editors, like musicians who play bass or rhythm guitar, set standards of taste (or time); they set the author's intellectual efforts, like the lead guitarist's improvisational flights, within a solid frame.

We in the English department believe that the *MJUR* serves several important functions. Primarily, it gives JMU students, no matter their majors or disciplines, an opportunity to publish their best intellectual efforts. The journal also serves as a model for college composition across the disciplines, reminding us of the importance of intellectual commitment and of the importance of good writing in all disciplines.

Let me offer congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the student authors, to the student editors, and to Dr. Peter J. Hager, the faculty member in charge of the two technical communication courses (in magazine editing and design) out of which this journal was produced. Their work this year brought the *MJUR* into being.

David K. Jeffrey, Head  
Department of English