

# Presentation Guide: Display of Creative Work at the KU Undergraduate Research Symposium

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## General guidelines:

- You (& other students with displays of creative works) will be in the same space as students who are giving poster presentations. Each creative display will have a table (approximately 6 ft. X 2 ½ ft.) where you can display your work. The audience will be milling around the room to visit with presenters.
- For students doing creative displays, it is **optional** whether you want to have a formal poster or whether you would like to simply have your artwork/project displayed on the table. If you are interested in the poster option, watch the "[Poster Presentation basics](#)" video to get a basic idea of what the poster should look like. The size and overall look would be the same as is in this video, but you would want to emphasize the three points below for the content. We will have a tri-fold poster board on each of the tables for you to use if you want (if you will not be using it, you can simply fold it up and set it behind your table on the day of the Symposium).
- Though the venue is somewhat limited (in terms of space and amount of time for setup), we encourage students to bring in examples of their work (or images of it) if possible. In past years, students have brought textiles to display, a laptop to show slides of artwork or video clips, and headphones so audience members could listen to audio clips. Please note that we do not have a secure location to store your artwork or equipment on the day of the Symposium. If you have any special requests about the space (an electrical outlet, spacing around your table, etc.), don't hesitate to ask! Try to give us as much advanced notice as you can, and we will do our best to make accommodations.
- You should prepare a **2 minute** talk about your project that you can present to a person that might come up to your display. This presentation should mostly be you talking *about* the creative process (see sections below), with examples of your creative project used to introduce the overall project or to illustrate particular concepts or ideas. The audience member will likely ask questions to follow up on specific points after you tell them about the project.

Regardless of whether you have a formal poster or a more informal display, you should make sure you cover the following topics while discussing your project with visitors. These are the criteria that your presentation/display will be judged on by the Symposium judges:

## 1. Creative vision/ Comparing to other artists

- First, give the audience a big-picture explanation of what you were trying to accomplish with your creative project.
  - Share with the audience the original themes, ideas, or inspiration for this project and how it relates to other works. Be sure to include:

- **Vision/Inspiration:** Explain your intentions and goals for your work or performance: What were you trying to accomplish? Was there something in particular that inspired this project?
- **Comparing to other artists:** Situate your work within a context of other works: Whom were you trying to emulate or resist? What other artists have done work with a similar medium, in a particular tradition, or explored similar themes? What influences were you trying to follow or shake off?

## 2. Process

- Next, show the audience your creative process and the decisions you made along the way.
  - Help your audience understand your creative process and behind-the-scenes decision making. Show them the work that goes into creating a poem [painting, dance, etc.].
  - Explain some of the decisions you made during the project: why did you take one path rather than another?
  - Share details about the final product or performance. This is where you might point to examples of your work. Make it easy for the audience to understand what your creative project looked like, and what principles or ideas guided your work.

## 3. Reflection

- Finally, reflect on what you learned about yourself, your discipline, and/or your original inspiration for the project through working on this project.
  - Evaluate your own work: what are the criteria you use to judge a performance/work of art in your medium or craft? How well does your work stand up to these criteria?
  - How did your vision for the project change over time? Did you stick to your original plans, or did the project evolve to explore different themes?
  - Explain what you have learned about the demands of this craft and about the nature of the creative process through working on this project.

Guidelines (with modification) from the template for performance reflections in John Bean's *Engaging Ideas* (2011), pg. 261.