Student Competition: Undergraduate Research Stories

Background

Epigeum Learning Solutions, a department of Oxford University Press, is currently developing a program of online courses titled *Research as a Transferable Skill*, with an anticipated publication date of August 2018. This learning program is intended for undergraduate students across all disciplines, and provides a comprehensive introduction to the core elements of research, scholarship and creativity—all presented within the context of how these sets of skills and concepts can contribute positively to college and career success.

As a supplement to the core course material, *Research as a Transferable Skill* will include animations and brief video interviews showcasing the experiences of real students and faculty involved in undergraduate research. **Epigeum is seeking a number of such individuals to share their stories with us, with a chance to appear as a featured personality in the published program.**

The Contest

Epigeum invites those who meet any of the following **eligibility criteria:**

1. Current undergraduate student who has completed an original research project or scholarly work (either individually or as part of a team)
2. Current undergraduate student who is involved in a research project that is near completion, with enough experience to reflect on the full experience and benefits
3. Recent college graduate (within 5 years of receiving undergraduate degree) who has previously done research as an undergraduate and is currently employed in any professional industry, including academia

**to submit a video or written essay** answering your choice of any **three** of the following questions:

- How has your experience with undergraduate research contributed to other aspects of your academic and/or professional life? What skills or learned behaviors have been most beneficial?
- If you started college with the mindset that participating in original research was beyond your ability or just “not for you”, how did your outlook change with your experiences and what advice would you give to other students who may not think research is an option?
- If you have had the opportunity to participate in an undergraduate research conference or showcase, how did you approach this experience and what did you find most rewarding?
- How has your idea of the meaning of “research” evolved from when you first began college to when you began working on research projects?
- How has mentorship (from professors, advisors, peers, or other) supported your skill development and confidence in research activities?
- Why is it essential for institutions to provide research opportunities for undergraduates, and what are the most important ways that this practice contributes to the academic community and society as a whole?
- If not yet graduated: Do you plan to pursue a career in academia or a different professional field? How do you expect the skills you learned through research will help prepare you for your chosen career path?

Entries from students/graduates across all disciplines are encouraged. **Epigeum will select a total of five winning entries, with at least one winner from each of the main disciplinary categories: natural sciences, social sciences, and arts & humanities.**

Winners will be featured in the *Research as a Transferable Skill* program as illustrated “characters” who will appear throughout the courses to demonstrate real-life situations. They will also be asked to appear in brief video interviews and voiceovers as needed. Winners will receive their own selection of Oxford University Press books up to $200 in value.

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**Guidelines & how to enter**

Video submissions should be no longer than 10 minutes in duration, and may be submitted in the following file formats: asf, qt, mov, mpg, mpeg, avi, wmv, mp4, m4v. Video production value is NOT a factor in the contest, and professional-quality editing is not expected; recording from a webcam or smartphone is perfectly acceptable. **If you choose to respond to the questions in the form of a written essay, you must still include a brief video introduction wherein you state your name, institution, year of study, and field of study.** Documents should be no longer than 2 pages of single-spaced 11 point font, not including photos if you choose to include them. Entries will be judged on originality and quality of responses to the questions as well as demonstration of a passion for the undergraduate research experience.

To enter this contest, please complete the form on the following page and send it with your video file (and essay, if applicable) to sarah.andrus@oup.com no later than November 30, 2017. Please use the email subject line “Epigeum contest submission from [your name], [institution]”. By entering, you are deemed to have read and accepted the contest terms and conditions.

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**About Epigeum**

A not-for-profit company now part of Oxford University Press, Epigeum is the leading provider of exceptional online courses designed to help universities and colleges transform their core activities in teaching, research, studying, and leadership and management. Our courses are developed through global collaboration of experts and partner universities and are used by leading institutions
Application form

Name:

Institution of undergraduate study:

City / State / Country:

Current year of study (undergraduate) OR year of graduation:

Major / field of study:

Field(s) of undergraduate research project(s), if different from above:

Brief description (max 70 words) of undergraduate research project you have completed or are currently working on:

Link to your personal or project team web page (optional):

If no longer an undergraduate, please indicate your current profession and employer:

Are you or a family member currently employed by Oxford University Press?

Have you read and agreed to the Terms Conditions?
Competition Terms and Conditions

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE EPIGEUM ‘UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH STORIES’ COMPETITION

PLEASE READ THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CAREFULLY. BY TAKING PART IN THE COMPETITION, ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE READ AND ACCEPTED THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND TO BE BOUND BY THEM.

1 The start date for entry to the competition is 18 October 2017. The closing date for entry to the competition is 30 November 2017. Entries must be received no later than 11.59pm on the closing date.

2 This competition is open to anyone who is a legal resident of the US and who is located in the US, or who is a legal resident in the UK and who is located in the UK, and who is 1) a current undergraduate student or a recent graduate, no more than five years past completion of the undergraduate degree, and 2) has completed (or is near completion of) an original research project or scholarly work as a college undergraduate. Persons under the age of 18 may only enter with the express permission of a parent or legal guardian which must be marked clearly on the competition entry. OUP reserves the right to request proof of age of any entrants.

3 To enter the competition you must submit a video file OR a written essay answering a selection of personal experience-based questions provided in the contest description. Valid entries must include an email address.

4 Entry into this competition is free. **No purchase is required.**

5 OUP does not accept any responsibility for entries that are lost, delayed, or damaged. Entries which are late, incomplete or illegible or not submitted in accordance with these Terms and Conditions will be disqualified at OUP’s sole discretion.

6 A maximum of five winning entries will be featured in the Research as a Transferable Skill online course program, currently in development. Epigeum may showcase the winning entries and other entries on the website available at [www.epigeum.com](http://www.epigeum.com).

7 The winners will be selected by OUP judging the best overall entries that thoughtfully, creatively, and articulately convey the entrant’s experiences with undergraduate research, in accordance with suitability criteria chosen by OUP from a review of all eligible entries. OUP’s decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

8 The winners will be notified by e-mail within 30 days of the closing date.
In the event that a winner cannot be contacted within the time specified, OUP reserves the right to withdraw their entitlement to the prize and award the prize to another entrant from the original entries received for the competition.

The prize is non-transferable, non-refundable and cannot be exchanged for a cash alternative in whole or in part. OUP reserves the right to provide an alternative prize. Competition entries will not be returned.

The entrant warrants that:

11.1.1 Their entry is original to the entrant and shall not have been previously published or exploited in any part and will not infringe any right of privacy, right of publicity or personality or any other right whatsoever of any third party individual;

11.1.2 the entrant is the sole author of the entry and the sole absolute unencumbered legal and beneficial owner of all rights of copyright and other rights to the entry.

Entrants agree that entry into the competition is conditional upon compliance with all relevant laws, rules and regulations and upon the entrants releasing OUP and its affiliates, subsidiaries, directors, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability, claims, demands and causes of action for any personal injury or other loss or damage (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss) suffered in connection with the entrant’s actions and submissions, except for any liability which cannot be excluded by law.

All entrants shall indemnify and hold OUP harmless from any claims, actions, proceedings, costs and expenses arising as a result of any allegation that the entrant did not own or is not wholly entitled and authorized to allow publication and reproduction of the entry by OUP. OUP reserves the right to disqualify the winner at its absolute discretion in the event of non-compliance or the failure to provide such releases.

OUP may collect and process any information provided by entrants, including personal data. OUP may use that information for correspondence with the prize winner, to deal with any queries on the competition, and to provide entrants with information about products or services which may interest entrants. The winner may be required to participate in related publicity without further recompense. OUP will disclose the name and county of the prize winner on request from a third party. OUP may share all information provided by entrants within OUP and with Oxford Publishing Limited, our affiliates, our licensors, our agents, our distributors and our suppliers.

If OUP is not able to run the competition as planned due to unforeseen circumstances, OUP reserves the right to alter, amend, suspend or cancel the competition without prior notice.

The Promotion is void where prohibited by law.

OUP will not be liable for any damage, loss, injury or disappointment suffered by any person entering or not being able to enter the competition or as a result of accepting any prize. OUP is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer on-line systems, servers or providers, computer equipment or software, failure of any email or entry to be received on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the internet, telephone lines or at any website or any combination thereof. Nothing shall exclude OUP’s liability for death or personal injury as a result of its negligence.
18 The competition and these Terms and Conditions will be governed by English law and any disputes shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England.

PROMOTER: Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Avenue, New York NY 10016, USA