



Conversation about Research Papers and Literature Review

Presenter:

Somebody lost in the Mississippi River!

Types of Research Papers

Journal Article

Conference Papers

Technical Report

Case Studies

*Technical Note**

What is the typical limit of pages
for these types of paper?



General Components of a Research Paper

Abstract

Introduction

Research questions

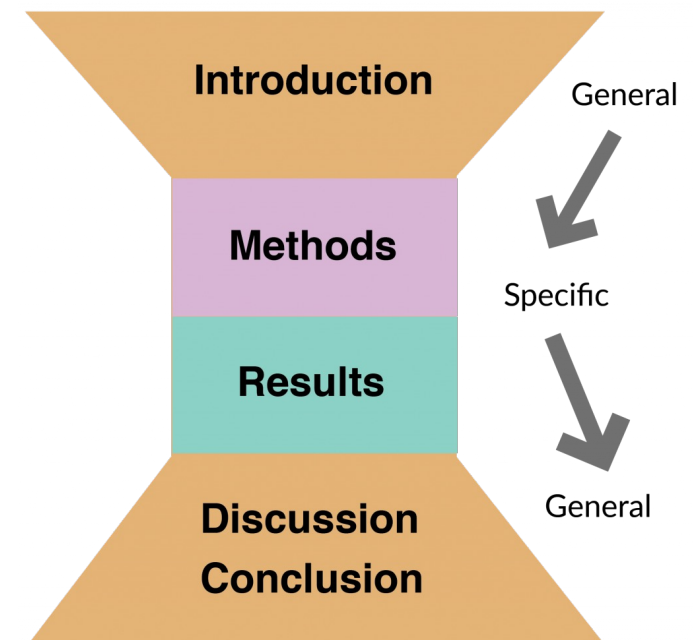
Methodology

Results/Discussion

Conclusions (implications for research, practice)

Acknowledgements

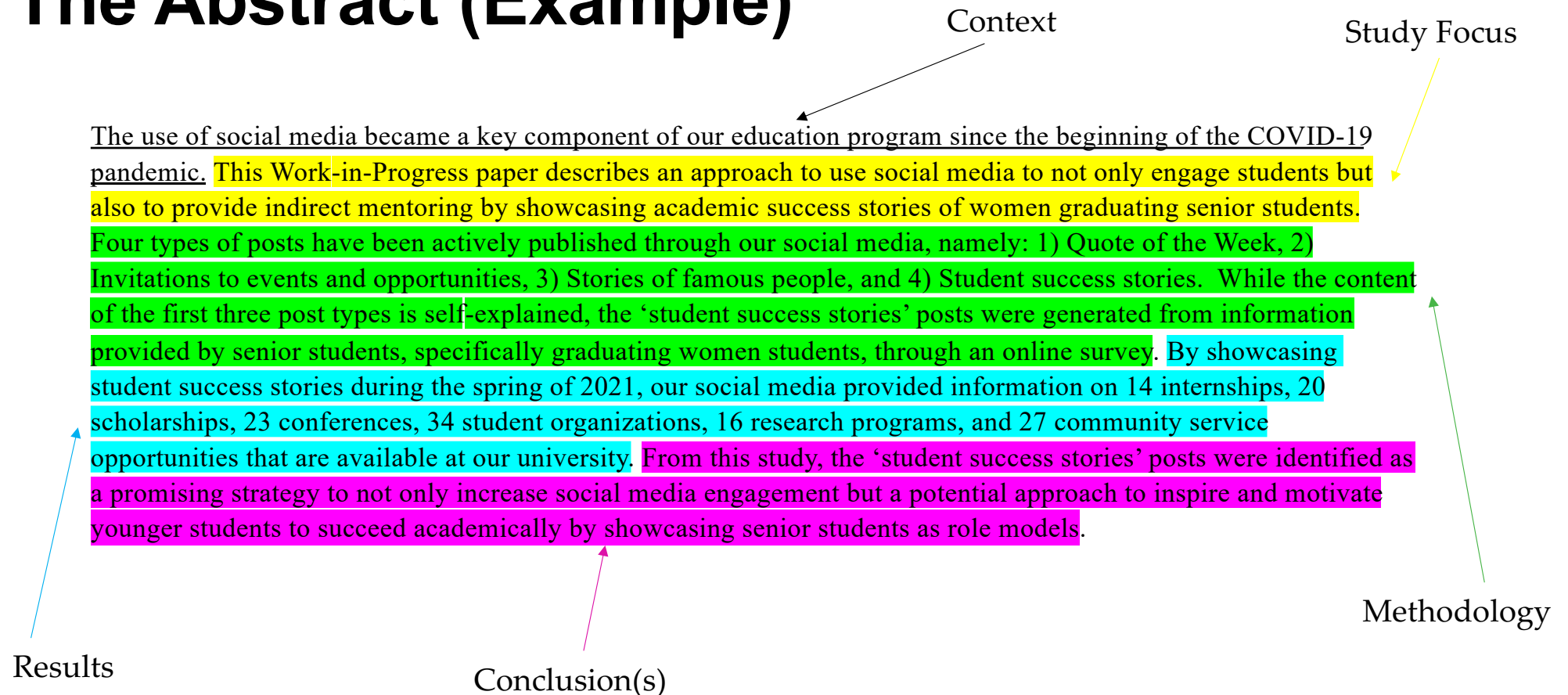
References



The Abstract

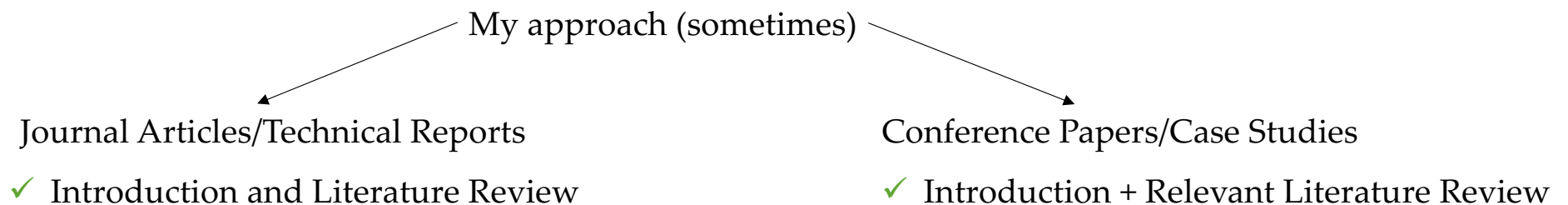
- Quick overview of the paper
 - Context
 - Study focus
 - Methodology
 - Results
 - Implications for research/conclusion(s)
 - Some journals include “key words” after abstract
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The Abstract (Example)



Introduction

- Starts off by specifying current events or statistics related to a topic and moves into why this area of study is important and needs to be studied
- Literature review – gives descriptions of recent literature addressing this topic and commonalities in what has been found and what is still unknown
- Theoretical framework that guided the study
- Section ends by authors specifying the purpose of their study and how this is addressing a gap in the literature



Introduction + Relevant Lit Review



General purpose/goal for Lit Reviews

A long list of reasons/objectives:

- Provide background knowledge
- Demonstrate knowledge
- Identify gaps
- Avoid duplication
- Evaluate methods
- Place research in context
- Support your research
- Identify experts
- Many more...

- 1) Learn from the selected field/topic (existing information, research findings, discoveries, etc.)
 - 2) Identify gaps in the selected field/topic
 - 3) Prevent you from duplicating (same information, research, experiments, etc.)
 - 4) Chance to highlight the significance of your additional research.
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Main Steps:

1. Define your topic:

- I recommend defining keywords and/or short titles
- I also recommend creating an outline for your lit review (introduction, body, conclusion)

2. Establish your criteria for paper review

- What do you need from the papers? e.g., the objectives, research question, findings, data, sample population
- This is going to help you organize the information and your thoughts

3. Search for relevant literature

- I commonly use Google Scholar
 - Research gate is popular too
 - UTEP may give you access to other libraries or databases
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4. Critically analyze the material, but be strategic...

- Let's start by scanning the paper
 - Is the information in the **abstract** relevant?
 - Give it another chance, check the **objectives** section (sometimes these are hidden in the introduction)
 - Maybe you are to discard this paper at this point. It is okay... there are many more papers out there...
 - Undecided? Okay... you are good people... Let's see the **conclusions**
 - If these three first sections did not capture your eye, this paper probably is not very relevant to your research and should not be part of your lit review.
 - If you are still interested in the paper, let's look at the **figures and tables**
 - Do you need to review this paper thoroughly to learn more from it?
-

5. Write your literature review

Introduction paragraph

This is your opportunity to **describe the field/topic**

Body paragraphs

As if you were **telling a chisme to your amigo**, the lit review must be written **following a story.**

The body paragraphs can:

criticize existing research,

highlight gaps,

provide supporting statements for your research,

provide statistics,

identify applicable methods,

etc...

Conclusion

Opportunity to **state the research needs** which should be your contribution

Recent changes I have made:

Name articles by year/author/title

Always copy the citation in APA format...

Use Mendeley to organize citations and articles

Add a column for your thoughts on this question

How does this study/paper affect/contribute to my study?

Let's see some examples...

Research Questions

- What are the questions the authors are trying to answer via this study?
 - Very specific, detailed, connected to the construct they're studying
 - If this is a quantitative study, will reference the hypothesis being tested, potential relationships between the data
 - If this is a qualitative study, will reference questions that the interviewer will ask participants related to the construct.
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Methodology

The author needs to answer this question: Does the methodology provide enough information/details for another researcher to repeat the study?

Describes how data was collected (via surveys, documents, participant interviews, focus groups, observations, etc).

Qualitative papers

- Reference how and where data was collected (interviews, focus groups), how it was analyzed, and what methodological approach (grounded theory, phenomenology) guided their data analysis

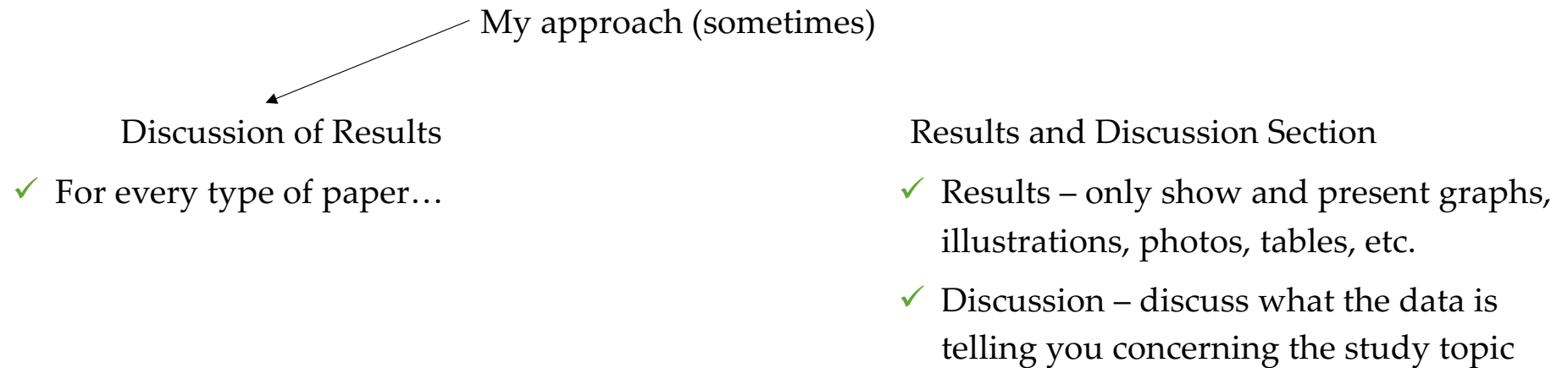
Quantitative papers

- Reference datasets used or type of data collected
 - Specify the dependent and independent variables
 - Reference the statistical analyses being conducted (regression, descriptive stats, factor analysis)
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Results

I like to think that there are no rules to the format for the results section. Just make sure you show the results!!!

Note: I have seen papers with two different sections: Results and Discussion



Results (Example)

Figure 1 presents the data obtained asking the question: How long have you been purchasing our products? The data is presented using bar graphs. The y-axis shows the frequency of the responses for five different choices including...

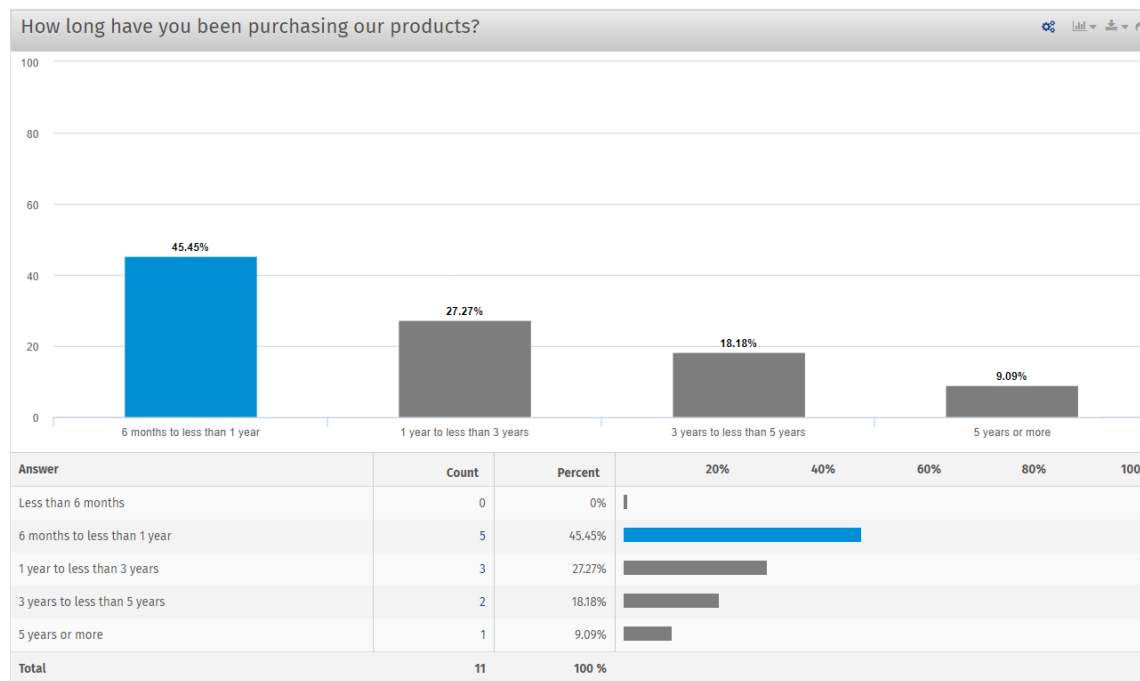


Figure 1 – Frequency of Purchase of Our Products

Discussion of Results (Example)

Figure 1 presents the clients' responses to the industry categories that best describe their jobs. The distribution of the responses is shown in a pie chart created with the percent values for the XXX categories. A total of XX responses were received. Education was the category with a greater percentage (18.18%), which represents 2 responses. The automotive and Entertainment categories did not receive any votes.

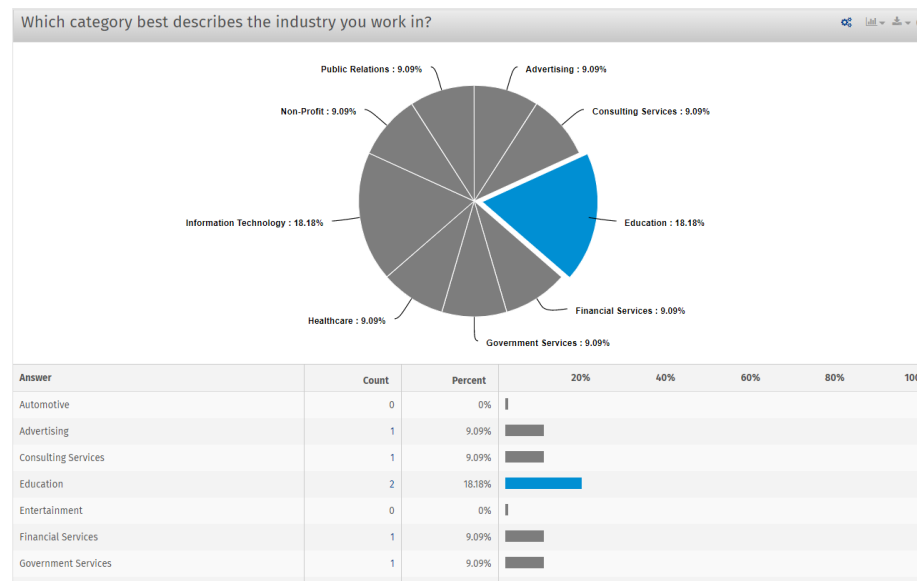


Figure 1 – Industry Categories from XXX Group

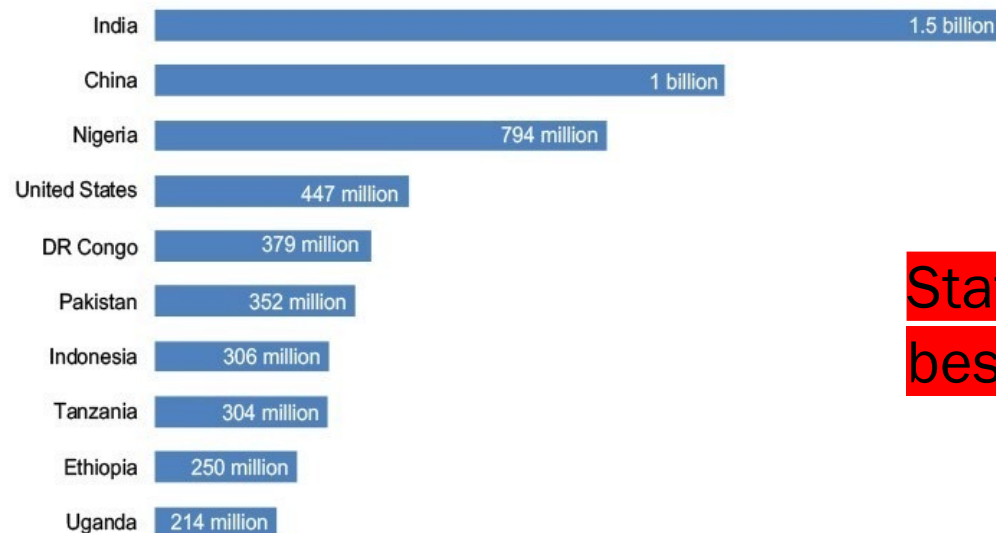
Visualization of Data/Results (Example)

“Interpret only what can be observed.”

These will be the world's biggest countries by population in 2100



Figures are rounded to the nearest million based on UN data



Statement: India will be the best country to live in 2100

Source: UN

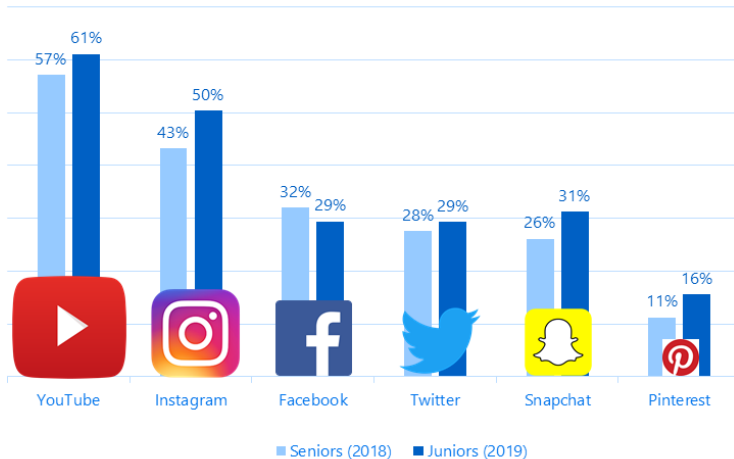
Visualization of Data/Results (Example)

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encoura[®]

Eduventures[®] Research

Channels **ever** used for researching colleges by prospective students: YouTube, Instagram, Facebook & Twitter



2018 Eduventures Student Sentiment Survey[®] (n=4,741) – data visualization by [higheredexperts.com](https://www.higheredexperts.com)

Statement: YouTube is the easiest channel to use by college students

Conclusion(s)

- Will summarize key findings from the results and how these answered the research questions
 - Will reference the literature and state how these findings support previous research, or will state if these findings are new
 - Reference limitations of the findings (sample size, participant sample, dataset)
 - Reference the implications of these findings for research and/or practice
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References

- Review sources for additional articles you'd like to read
 - Note which authors write a lot on this topic
 - Note which authors are referenced as the original developers of key theories or frameworks in the construct you're studying
 - Use these sources to build your literature review
 - Note which journals authors typically publish in
 - What is the value of publishing in those journals (impact factor)
 - Review publishers to confirm it's a real journal; to understand requirements for submitting to that journal
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Last comments...

Review each website for instructions, deadlines, and submission process

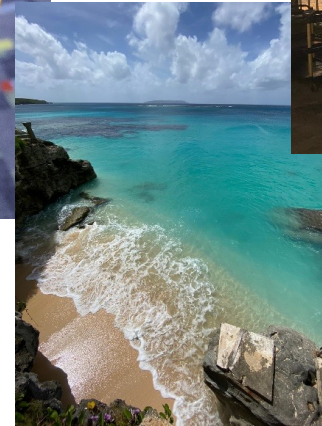
Review requirements for posters vs. papers; publication of papers

Individual or group submission considerations

Quicker notifications and due dates for materials

Note: Confirm financial support for attending from CREATE or other faculty

This is the end... bye!



Thank you for your attention!