

Sample Abstract and Introduction for the First Virginia Tech Interdisciplinary Research Symposium

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The easiest way to understand what to have in your abstract is to understand the difference between “multidisciplinary” and “interdisciplinary” research. Multidisciplinary means that the work you do crosses disciplinary boundaries. Interdisciplinarity, on the other hand, requires the additional work of integrating the methodologies, techniques, or practices of the disciplines that you are utilizing. We are well aware that for every project, the ways that this integration takes place is different, *and this is exactly what we need you to explain on the abstract—the unique process of intentional integration that you have pursued in your research*. Please keep descriptions of your research as brief as possible and focus primarily on the process of integration and secondarily on the results/outcomes/impact of your work.

Note: please make sure that your abstract is comprehensible to others outside of your major.

No attachments please. Maximum one figure or table. One page, 300 word limit. Please submit you abstract as Word (doc, docx, rtf, txt) file. Please name your file as FirstName_LastName and email it to symposium@IDRsociety.org.

Integrated disciplines (name at least two):

Key words (5 max.):