Today:

• Abstract-a-palooza
• Time to work
Abstracts... But why?

- Snapshot of what you did and why
- Get people interested!
  - Come see your thing
  - Better chance of getting accepted
Abstracts . . . But why?

- Snapshot of what you did and why
- Get people interested!
  - General audience (imagine explaining it to your cousin/granny/roomie)
Abstracts... But how?

- Purpose of project
- Research question
- Research methods
- Conclusion of project
- The “So what?”
Abstracts... But how?

- **Purpose of project**
  - Hook
  - Background
  - What field?

Ex: “I look at two novels that struggle with representing intense combinations of individual and communal grief: William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go.*"
Abstracts... But how?

- Research question
  - What were you trying to find out?

Ex: “In William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* how can grief, an incomprehensible and incommunicable emotion, be represented in fiction? Is it paradoxical, or futile, to do so?”

Examples from UC Davis’s [Undergraduate Research Center](https://undergradresearch.ucdavis.edu)
Abstracts... But how?

- Research methods
  - How did you find (or plan on finding) the answer?

Ex: “Currently, in the Tier II experimental phase of this assessment, I am investigating underground plume mobility of 20% and 100% additized and unadditized Soy and Animal Fat based biodiesel blends and comparing them to Ultra Low-Sulfer Diesel #2 (USLD) by filming these fuels as they seep through unsaturated sand, encounter a simulated underground water table, and form a floating lens on top of the water.”

Examples from UC Davis’s Undergraduate Research Center
Abstracts... But how?

- Conclusion of project
  - What did you learn?
  - What did you find out?
  - What were the results?
  - Or what do you hope to find?

Ex. “They do not try to convey a story, a character, an argument, or a realization, so much as they try to convey an emotion.”

Examples from UC Davis’s Undergraduate Research Center
Abstracts... But how?

- The “So what?”
  - Why it matters
  - Fills a gap?
  - Implications

Ex. “Significant knowledge gaps exist in the fate, transport, biodegradation, and toxicity properties of biodiesel when it is leaked into the environment. In order to fill these gaps...”

Examples from UC Davis's Undergraduate Research Center
Abstracts... Nitty Gritty

- Worry about content first
- Keep it simple when possible!
- Avoid extra words
  - Very, really, I think, I believe
- Not the place to be citing anything
Abstracts... Common UROC pitfalls

- The abstract limited to the reasons why they are interested in the topic
- Too brief (only a few sentences)
- Not including the research questions
- Not including the research methods
- Not stating why the topics are important to be investigated
Time to work

Have questions?

Let us know and we’ll bump you to a break-out room with a librarian to talk.