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Core Writing: Introduction

Editors of SUURJ

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Core Writing Essays

With its emphasis on seminar-style classes, focus on research-based inquiry, and practice of writing in revision, our liberal arts core curriculum—the University Core, or UCOR—sets Seattle University apart from other institutions of higher learning. We felt strongly that to capture the spirit of Seattle University, and to convey that spirit to a national audience, *SUURJ* should include writing from the Core. Any research-based writing assignment from a Core class is eligible for consideration in this section. We decided to offer Core writing as a separate section rather than to integrate the essays into the other full-length articles in the journal. We made this choice for several reasons. First, we wanted to introduce the Core to an audience outside the campus community. Second, because students in the Core are not necessarily majors in the field for which they are writing, and because they are often first- and second-year students, we did not want to assess their writing in the same way we did essays by upper-division majors. Finally, Core courses are often interdisciplinary, or they engage in assignments that are less-traditionally contoured than research projects in the majors, so again, we chose a different mode of evaluation. We offer the Core Writing section as part of our celebration of writing at all stages of students' undergraduate careers.