

Welcome to SUURJ

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Welcome to *SUURJ*

Welcome to the second volume of the *Seattle University Undergraduate Research Journal* (*SUURJ*). Herein, you will encounter the results of a year-long collaboration between students, faculty, and administrators dedicated to amplifying undergraduate student voices. Through developing and publishing research conducted by undergraduates across disciplines and grade levels, *SUURJ* empowers students to share a diversity of perspectives within university, local, and global communities. Indeed, our journal holds the foundational value of strengthening student voices in dialogues beyond the classroom. As members of the *SUURJ* editorial team, we feel compelled to emphasize the importance of listening to these voices, especially considering that many have been silenced, both currently and historically.

We believe that every voice deserves to be heard in our school, city, and world. Consequently, we have not selected research for publication based solely on a traditional system of merit; we have also endeavored to create a journal that features interdisciplinary research and dares to engage in challenging discourse. We welcome hitherto silenced voices. The inclusion of diverse perspectives is imperative now more than ever given the state of our social and political climate.

The potential for undergraduate research to inspire social change is not entirely obvious. Academic research is often perceived as dry, lofty, inscrutable, elitist, and disconnected from the realities of being and acting in the world. While these descriptions may validly apply to many people's experiences of academic research, the influence and voice that research can carry are often underrated, particularly at the undergraduate level. Many will agree that, on some level, "research" has been incredibly impactful in shaping who we are today as humans, as scholars, and as communities. But questions remain: What impact can a single research paper have? Whose voices are dominantly featured in what we call "academic research," and what do these voices tell us? What happens when marginalized voices research and write "against the grain," and what do *they* tell us? What are the ethical responsibilities of editors as they approach texts, and what are the consequences of editing itself? How are we to decipher what constitutes "good" research? Who holds the privilege of being the decipherer?

It is our belief, as editors of *SUURJ*, that research papers are most effective when power is shared between the author, editor, and community through collaborative dialogue. We maintain that academic and extracurricular conversations benefit from a diversity of perspectives and methodologies, and that undergraduate research is a valuable, yet untapped, source of ideation. Most of all, we strive to open the gates for conflict to be addressed and discourse to be held within and outside of Seattle University, especially by those who dominant culture has historically barred from doing so. We have selected and edited the pieces

in *SUURJ* with these values in mind. We hope to not only act according to our goals and values with this second volume, but to increasingly embrace our mission as the future of *SUURJ* unfolds. Thank you for choosing our journal; here, we hope you will find as many ideas and truths as we have.

In humble solidarity,
The Student Editors of *SUURJ*

Jordan Ayers
Jesse Goncalves
Michelle Newblom