



Council on Undergraduate Research
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Talking Points for Students

- Federal investments in undergraduate research become more vital to the future of America every day and have a profound impact on local communities across America. *[Explain the relevance of your own research --- how it addresses fundamental issues of science or how it addresses a problem of interest to society, especially as it impacts constituents in the Representatives' district.]*
- Students learn science by doing science. *[Talk about how your research experience has affected your career decisions; your intellectual maturity; your learning, and your desire to pursue further study in your field.]* Hands-on research goes beyond what can be done by computer simulation, by distance learning, or traditional lectures.
- Research and education are indivisible; mentorship is vital for successful undergraduate research projects. *[Discuss the positive impact that your faculty member has had on you and your research.]*
- Federal laboratories are a wonderful opportunity for internships and summer research experiences by undergraduates. *[Discuss your experience in a federal laboratory setting.]* CUR urges Congress to make better use of national laboratories and federal agency labs by increasing their programs for undergraduate research.
- CUR supports more funding for the America COMPETES Act, which makes improvements to our math and science education and a strong commitment to research.
- There are a number of federal agencies, including NSF, the NIH, the Department of Energy, the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities, and others that support varied research and education programs as independent grant-making agencies, and particularly facilitate research and original scholarship. *[Discuss any collaborative research grants, grants for HBCUs and HSIs, or any other funding under these agencies you have received.]*

Most importantly, thank your Senators and Representatives for their support.