



Council on Undergraduate Research
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TALKING POINTS FOR STUDENTS

The below points can be used to guide your communication with Representatives or Senators.

Importance of Undergraduate Research (5-10 minutes max)

- Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today to inform you about my undergraduate research work. I am here today as part of the Council on Undergraduate Research's poster session on Capitol Hill which is held annually for students to present information in research that they have conducted. *[Provide a brief 1-2 minute overview of your own research].*
- Students learn science by doing science. Undergraduate research has a role to play in engaging students so they will work to find answers to scientific unknowns and remain committed to the pursuit of higher education. *[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.]*
- 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.]*

Importance of Undergraduate Research Funding (10-15 minutes)

- Congress recently reauthorized the America COMPETES Act, which could provide as much as \$40 billion in support for research, STEM education and American innovation, and CUR supports the full funding of programs authorized by that law. Several COMPETES programs invest in undergraduate research, which promotes an innovative, postsecondary education experience that feeds the STEM research pipeline, fosters new discovery and drives economic growth.
- Federal investments in undergraduate research are vital to the future of America, 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 or Senator's state.]*

- There are a number of federal agencies, including NSF, the NIH, the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, 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.]*
- Additionally, Federal laboratories provide 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 works with the undergraduate research community to ensure that those in the U.S. Congress who provide funding for research and education have a clear understanding of the programs they fund and why these programs are important. *[Provide a brief summary of your research and how federal dollars are being spent to support work like yours].*
- Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about undergraduate research today and

For Science and Social Science students: I want to invite you to the Posters on the Hill presentation this evening at 5:30 p.m. in Rooms 338-B, 339-B & 340-B of the Rayburn House Office Building.

For Arts and Humanities students: I want to invite you to the Posters on the Hill Luncheon meeting this afternoon at 12:00 p.m. in Room 339-B of the Rayburn House Office Building.