

Editorial

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.”

Some eighty years later, Zora Neale Hurston’s words still resonate with the ethos of scholastic investigation. Engaged academia is research with intention; rigorous scholarship serves the universal ambition of societal betterment. Creating and sharing new knowledge enriches our lives, illuminates new paths forward, and sponsors an informed and intelligent tomorrow.

But building a learned and considerate future requires proactivity, and its development begins with our future thinkers and scholars. Exposing adolescents to the tenets of good research, substantiated claims, and bias-checking is paramount in a time of bleeding headlines and pernicious social media algorithms. This education starts with including youth in scholarly discourse. This journal hopes to further that cause. Drawing contributions from secondary-school students across the world, *The Young Researcher* adds new voices to the ongoing academic conversation.

Alongside youth engagement, this journal has another objective. *The Young Researcher* values intellectual pluralism: no fields of study are excluded from publication. While discipline-specific journals can capitalize on their specializations, we believe that interconnection between areas of expertise promotes academic fluency: the work you’ll find in *The Young Researcher* represents a fulsome variety of academic subjects, methodologies, and evidence-based inquiries.

Our goal is to share this work. Staunchly committed to these ideals, *The Young Researcher* will continue to platform peer-reviewed, reputable research to aid others in their quests for truth and knowledge. We will always fight to make our work accessible.

The rest is up to you.

The Editors

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