

Editorial

Research is the culmination of an exhaustive, systematic, and repeatable pursuit of objective knowledge. It is the culmination of consistency and the furtherance of humans' understanding of our place in this universe. Research is interdisciplinary and expansive. It is honest, objective, and deeply profound. Nevertheless, in the modern-day of free information, research finds itself under threat as never before. Subjectivity, partisanship, and misinformation are a plague corrupting the foundation of our society, and in the new age of misinformation, cracks are beginning to show in our longest-standing pillars. Free, objective and clear research has never before been as vital to the state of the world. In the humble pursuit of this freedom of knowledge, we, the editorial team, proudly present this edition of *The Young Researcher*.

The future of research rests in the hands of our youth. Sensationalist academia, emotional journalism, and cherry-picked news sources are trending towards prominence in both education and society. Many have resigned to their hopelessness in the face of this polarized landscape, and academic honesty is seeing itself enter into a slow period of decline. These wrongs, however, may still be righted. Students, taught the strategies of true research, can right the tipping of the metaphorical ship. Indeed, our editorial team's opinion is that, while professional fields may be increasingly infiltrated by academic dishonesty, younger academic fields remain rich with inquisitive vigor. Students, particularly secondary school students, have in these new times developed unique methods of parsing this influx of information to both satiate their curiosity and form nuanced opinions on the world, academia, and science as a whole.

Moreover, for many youths, the research process involves a profound personal connection and a need to strive for truth that older academics are often hailed for. Tragically, however, students have often found these efforts unacknowledged. For these purposes, we submit today the 2022 *Young Researcher*.

The Editors

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