Lance & Elena Calvert Undergraduate Research Award
Instructions for Students

The reflective essay carries the most weight in the judging for the Lance and Elena Calvert Undergraduate Research Award, followed by the bibliography. The points below are designed to guide you in focusing on important elements in the reflective essay and the bibliography.

Reflective Essay
The reflective essay represents the most important element used by the judges to evaluate your work for this award. The reflective essay should cover aspects of your research process including search strategies that you used to gather information and how you chose sources to support your thesis. The following points are taken from the rubric used in judging the submissions for the award and should be addressed in the reflective essay.

- How did you evaluate your resources? Tell us in the reflective essay what criteria you used to choose your information resources.
- You should explain your research process; how did you gather information for your project? What keywords did you use when searching for information?
- Your essay should also display an awareness of all the research tools available. Research tools can include books, articles accessed from databases, bibliographies, and websites – anything that helped you find the information to complete your project.
- Did you have a failed search or dead ends during the research process? What did you do to compensate; how did you adjust your search if you reach a dead end?
- Don’t just focus on one side of an issue. Your essay should demonstrate how you investigated different points of view throughout your research process.
- Did you display persistence and initiative in gaining access to appropriate sources not available in the library? Mention in the essay if you used tools to locate materials not available in Lied Library, including Link+ and Interlibrary Loan.

Bibliography
Your paper’s bibliography should be in a consistent style appropriate to your discipline. To help the judges understand your unique list set of resources, you may include an explanatory note identifying specific characteristics of these sources that were important in your selection and use for your project.