



IU KOKOMO
**STUDENT
RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM**

MARCH 24,
2023

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SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZER: JOANN KAISER (JKAISER@IUK.EDU)

IU Kokomo Student Research Symposium 2023

Symposium Schedule

Event	Location	Time
Registration/Poster Check-in	Alumni Hall	8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Research to Support Families and Communities	KC 130 A	9-10:15 a.m.
Science & Humanities: Numbers, Fact, and Fiction	KC 130 B	9-10:15 a.m.
Understanding Governments, Equity, and Society through Research	KC 130 A	10:30-11:45 a.m.
Welcome from Chancellor Mark Canada Poster Session: Research Highlights Across the University	Alumni Hall	12-1:15 p.m.
Making Connections: Education, Music, Fashion, and Sports	KC 130 A	1:30-2:45 p.m.

Top poster and presentation awards will be announced via email following the symposium.

Special thanks to our faculty volunteers: Scott Blackwell, Leda Casey, Angela Coppola, Chris Darr, Erin Doss, Donna McLean, Patrick Motl, Aaron Pickens, Amelia Tebbe

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Using Research to Support Families and Communities

Presentation Session – 9-10:15 a.m. KC 130 A

Project Title	Presenter	Faculty Mentor	Abstract
<i>Fostering Change in a Broken System</i>	Gabbie Nank, Jenny Sheets, Lacy Salgat, Sean Witter	Deborah Jaworski	This examination of the United States Foster Care System focuses on the issues proposed to countless children. The goal of this research presentation is to explore the issues inherent to the foster care system and elaborate on the value in finding resolution. The policies and expectations surrounding the current system exist with room for significant improvements. We propose the foster care system undergo deep evaluation and reform in its policies and practices. Children across the nation are the worst impacted by the flawed system that alleges to protect them. Reunification, kinship care, racial factors, mental health, and social issues contribute to the dire need for the foster care system to be reformed to focus on the children within it. This presentation will outline our primary reasoning as to why the system needs to be repaired as well as proposing how the American society can address these issues with a new set of practices and policies around our approach to foster care and adoption.
<i>Attachment Injuries: An Objective Overview</i>	Mallori Alder, Haob Dos Santos, Wesley Grove, Andrea Santiago	Deborah Jaworski	Attachment injuries are a common injury type experienced by children in the foster care system. We have performed a literature review based on these subjects to examine the behaviors, causes, and treatments available for attachment injuries with the purpose of creating a presentation to further explore the effects of attachment injuries. Subsequently, this presentation is intended to demonstrate the specific nuances of attachment injuries that may otherwise go unseen in foster children and children in general. Furthermore, given the broad impact of attachment injuries, we believe that the significance of this presentation may be applied to the generalized population elsewhere.
<i>The Making of a Matriarch-An Ethnographic Perspective Piece</i>	Andrea Saylor	Erin Doss Joann Kaiser	This research reviews the chronicles of my own mother's story from an ethnographic perspective. This research was done to gain a deeper understanding of how her reality has created meaning for her life and the subsequent effects of generational trauma in a personal context. This form of ethnographic research was gathered through an information-gathering interview, in which I probed into her past experiences to better understand the current reality of our familial system, supplemented by passive observations. This research will include a thick description in order to provide detail, voice, emotion, and the context necessary for the audience to follow and understand the social and cultural dynamics present. All in all, this research aims to explore the social, cultural, and spiritual dynamics related to the experiences that shaped my mother's reality. Keywords: ethnography, generational trauma, created reality, thick description
<i>A Genealogical Perspective on Social Controversy</i>	Lucy Mavrick	Erin Doss	Genealogical research has been the most wildly fulfilling hobby of mine since 2007, when I completed my first family pedigree for an assignment at Sycamore Elementary School. For that project, my great-grandmother became my research partner, and genealogy became "our thing". As Covid-19 became less of a concern for my great-grandmother in early 2022, we continued our hobby when our research was sparked with another genealogical project, part of the Sociology of Families course taught by Dr. Jamie

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			Oslawski-Lopez. Our family's genealogical history is ever-changing and, like all genealogical research, unending. However, this account of my research explores resources, artifacts, and social issues that have enlightened my most immediate question: "Who were the parents of Roy Chris Hutchison, a 1950 resident of Kokomo, Indiana, and father of Naomi Ruth Hutchison?"
<i>Fostered</i>	Maleah Winger, Tori Hiatt, Emily Morgan, Hannah Sandefur	Deborah Jaworski	For almost 500 years, the foster care system in America has strived to provide services and advocate for children and families all over the country, but what do we really understand about this system? The book <i>Fostered</i> , by Tori Hope Peterson, exposed her experience being confined within the foster care system. As the author tells her story, she emphasizes her need to be loved, heard, and seen. Peterson claims she was able to overcome her tragedies through accepting Jesus Christ as her Savior and surrendering her life to the Heavenly Father. Our presentation focuses on the supportive role of Christian faith-based communities in support of foster care youth and advocates for increased involvement. Youth in the foster care system face trials, but for some youth, their faith serves as a source of strength and comfort that changes the trajectory of their lives

Science & Humanities: Numbers, Facts, and Fiction

Presentation Session – 9-10:15 a.m. KC 130 B

Project Title	Presenter	Faculty Mentor	Abstract
<i>Action Graphs and their Applications</i>	Bryce Jennings, Drew Caldwell	Amelia Tebbe	Catalan numbers are a well-known sequence of positive numbers that often appear in counting problems. Based on work of Alvarez-Bergner-Lopez, we can recursively create directed graphs, referred to as action graphs, that represent the Catalan numbers in order to better understand the sequence. There are other related sequences such as the Fuss-Catalan numbers, (a,b)-Catalan numbers, Catalan's Triangle, and super Catalan numbers. In this talk, we will discuss certain properties of these sequences and generalizations of action graphs themselves. We will show how the (a,b)-Catalan numbers and Catalan's Triangle relate to one another and will discuss different possible techniques to formulate generalized action graphs to represent these sequences, and ultimately why this actually is not possible for Catalan's Triangle.
<i>Growth kinetics of susceptible and resistant isolates of Staphylococcus intermedius A look into the growth</i>	Kate Leonhard	Christian Chauret	Multiple different types of Staphylococcus species are found in a wide variety of environments. Out of all the Staphylococcus species, the coagulase-positive species are deemed the most pathogenic of all of the different species. A Staphylococcus isolate was obtained from human skin and phenotypically determined to be part of the Staphylococcus intermedius group (SIG), a group of bacteria that are found in animals. Human infections from SIG are rare, however, they are commonly pathogenic in animals. SIG infections are usually treated with antibiotics. Unfortunately, we face an ever-growing pandemic of antibiotic-resistant bacteria due to misguidance in the distribution and use of antibiotics. Thus, to simulate a real-world problem, the S. intermedius isolates were exposed to an antibiotic regimen of streptomycin until the

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<i>mechanisms of resistant bacteria.</i>			bacteria became resistant as determined via a Minimum Inhibitory Concentration assay. The bacteria were then grown under different stress conditions to see if the susceptible ones grew differently than the resistant bacteria. Stressors included temperatures ranging from 25° C to 32° C, 4% to 11% salt (w/v of NaCl), and pH values ranging from 4.5 to 6.5 and from 7.5 to 9.5. The growth medium used was Tryptic Soy Broth, which was inoculated with pure cultures of <i>S.intermedius</i> . Growth was periodically measured for 36 hours (or until the cells reached the stationary phase) using a spectrophotometer at 600nm. Significant differences were seen in most of the treatments, most notably at 7% NaCl and 8 and 8.5 pH.
<i>Kurt Vonnegut's 'Cat's Cradle' as Sci-Fi Literature</i>	April Chrisman	Erin Doss	I will be presenting a paper from an intro science fiction course analyzing Kurt Vonnegut's classic novel Cat's Cradle. My presentation will detail on the relationship between the novel's fictional events and the present featuring but not limited to WMDs, epistemology, and postmodernism. Vonnegut's critiques within the novel follow lessons imperative to understanding the potentials of technological innovation as well as the relationship it shares with religion and human enrichment. I will go into how communication plays a vital role in sustaining environments like San Lorenzo, as human ideology, just as technological advancements, is powerful enough to build as well as destroy itself.
<i>Is Reliance on Verified Journalism Being Damaged by Social Media-Based News? A Brief Investigation into the Shift in News Consumption</i>	Sean Witter	Erin Doss	This presentation will summarize my ongoing research project of evaluating the level of trust associated with various news media formats. It will examine the relevant literature that relates to social media, news, and fake news. A large portion of news media consumers has moved from traditional television-based news toward less easily verified social media-based news mediums. This research seeks to uncover any possible connections between levels of news media trust and short-form video-sharing social media sites. There are indications that there may be a correlation between the primacy of source - the associated research seeks to identify any statistical correlations between these. This research is accompanied by a survey that is currently ongoing. The survey seeks to gauge the participant's level of trust in traditional news media as well as learn what their preferred short-form video-sharing sites are. It is my hope that this research can contribute to and advance the communication field.

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Understanding Governments, Equity, and Society through Research

Presentation Session – 10:30-11:45 a.m. KC 130 A

Project Title	Presenter	Faculty Mentor	Abstract
<i>Ignoring Children as Stakeholders Inherently Prolifcates Marginalization Across Groups</i>	Melissa Cavaletto	Rod Haywood	Corporations systemically proliferate the marginalization of people based on race, ethnicity, ability, and poverty. This is accomplished through failure of current industry strategic planning guidance of which children are inherently excluded from qualifying as priority stakeholders in the process. From the standpoint of strategic planning, children have little, if any, depth of value in the process because they lack defined qualifiers regarding monetary influence, political and economic weight, or capacity in monitoring or feedback. A critical examination of the Flint Water Crisis, COVID-19 Pandemic, corporate sustainability, and foundational operations of the United States public education system demonstrates the generational perpetuation of marginalization due to ignoring the value of children in the short and long term. The participant will recognize bureaucratic influence in systemic marginalization and the need to redefine stakeholder qualifiers to value children based on their current and potential social, economic, and political capacity.
<i>Equity in the Workplace Worldwide</i>	Jenny Sheets	Hyunkang Hur	Women's rights within the workplace have been thoroughly researched, and there is a fair amount of evidence to show improvement in specific parts of our global society. Is there a clear set of predictors and enough data to compare countries versus their laws and beliefs that restrain women from working or receiving fair treatment in these areas? This research explored women's rights and laws of the workplace in the United States and Iceland specifically. It included data and background from other countries in the Asian, European, and Middle Eastern regions. Both quantitative and qualitative research was used and cited. Results suggest that there may be a significant rate of change on this topic if more laws protecting women's workplace rights were implemented worldwide.
<i>Government Mismanagement</i>	Kehinde Edebiri	Rod Haywood	This paper examines political mismanagement at various levels of government, including a failure to plan and control as a result of poor decisions, inept operations, and ineffective control. The research exacerbates political, social, and economic inequality and polarization, limits states' ability to respond to public health crises (Flint water crisis and pandemic), harms the business environment and economic opportunity, fuels conflict, and undermines trust in government. The paper also discusses how the government lacks knowledge about our complex society and how this ignorance is behind many intended and harmful side effects of federal policies; they use debt, an opaque tax system, and other techniques to conceal the total cost of programs, and they use logrolling to pass harmful policies that do not have widespread public support. Furthermore, the paper presents additional findings on the importance of government-to-people communication, which support authenticity

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<i>At the Brink - A Reflection of the Near Coup in 2016 in Mauritania</i>	Sean Witter	Carlos Lisoni (Political Science, IU Bloomington)	In this presentation, I will begin by summarizing the seven months I spent living in Mauritania, a semi-presidential unitary Islamic Republic, working as a cook for an American training team there. This time was spent balancing official duties as a cook with unofficial duties as a part-time French translator, local guide, and driver. This time was punctuated by a particularly perilous moment for the stability of the Mauritanian government. In this presentation, I will outline the local history of various military Coup d'états, Jihadism, and extremist indoctrination. The nation has undergone significant turmoil, and the time I spent there was overshadowed by the possibility of a dangerous and violent military Coup. I will recount the events leading up to this as well as the preparations made to ensure that there was not a repeat of the Benghazi situation.
<i>Crime Panics</i>	Destiny Moore, Drake Guyer, Hannah Sandefur	Stephanie Medley-Rath	What comes to mind when you think of crime panics? Our group will explore current and past crime panics and the driving societal forces behind them. We will be utilizing a variety of sources from our Honors course and other statistical information in order to reach a knowledgeable conclusion on if crime panics are valid. Is there evidence that society should be fearful of crime rates rising? Or is there evidence that suggests the opposite? Our research has shown trends that might indicate that True Crime Shows and other media outlets may be contributing to Americans believing that crime rates are rising and as such these avenues may also be contributing to the rise of crime panics themselves.

Research Highlights Across the University

Poster Session – 12-1:30 p.m.

Project Title	Presenter	Faculty Mentor	Abstract
<i>Transgender Panics</i>	Braxton Conley	Stephanie Medley-Rath	A moral panic is a mass movement created by false or exaggerated numbers of a deviant group or behavior that is deemed violent or dangerous and thought to threaten society's values. Moral panics involving LGBTQ2+ people have grown far more frequent and intense throughout the past few years. A major cause of this is the growing support for the inclusion of transgender people. This study aims to connect the cause to the creation of these moral panics including why and how they start, the effect of the panic on the progress made, and the outcomes of these panics socially and legally. I will make these connections by researching studies, news articles, and journals.

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<p>Youth Culture Panics</p>	<p>Kelsey Hammond</p>	<p>Stephanie Medley-Rath</p>	<p>Youth culture panics have been taking over the nation for the past few centuries. These panics go back to the moral panics that have been happening within society for quite some time. It is highly important to know just how these panics have impacted society as a whole, and the youth that are being discussed within this. Youth tend to find methods to express themselves in highly unique ways, however, more often than not, adults within society find these to be problematic and dangerous ways for children to be expressive. The study is focused on examining the history of youth culture panics, school shootings, social skills, and more. By exploring the ongoing horizon of moral panics, one can see that there is quite a bit to unwrap regarding the youth and their ever-changing cultures.</p>
<p><i>The Potential, Impact, and Limitations of ChatGPT: Where is it now?</i></p>	<p>Matt Kaiser, Kyle Earl</p>	<p>Hong Liu</p>	<p>ChatGPT, launched in November 2022, has quickly captured global attention. From receiving extensive media coverage to trending on social media and becoming a hot topic at academic forums, its impact has been undeniable. As ChatGPT grows rapidly and continues to develop, people are also starting to question the impact of artificial intelligence on daily life. In this study, we aim to explore the potential, impact, and limitations of ChatGPT through sentiment analysis of user perception on social media and a review of existing literature on ChatGPT. We collected data from Reddit to analyze users' perceptions of ChatGPT using various sentiment analysis algorithms, which is a rapidly growing field in computer science that aims to understand attitudes, opinions, and emotions toward a subject. Additionally, a comprehensive review of the existing literature on ChatGPT will be conducted, including studies on its development, applications, and limitations. Our research is ongoing, and we hope to provide insights into the public's perception of user-facing artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT, and contribute to ongoing discussions on the responsible use of artificial intelligence. Keywords: Sentiment Analysis, ChatGPT, Artificial Intelligence</p>
<p><i>Gamification in Undergraduate Computer Science Courses</i></p>	<p>Matt Kaiser</p>	<p>Hong Liu</p>	<p>As technology continues to shape modern society, computer programming has emerged as a vital skill, and practical experience has become crucial for success. While instructors offer hands-on labs in programming courses, traditional lab exercises may not fully engage and motivate students. Therefore, many educators are exploring the integration of gamification techniques into practical training to enhance student engagement and motivation, especially for beginners. In this study, we aim to explore the effectiveness of gamification in computer science education by constructing gamified labs to introduce basic programming concepts and techniques to undergraduate students in their introductory courses. Our goal is to investigate how gamification can affect the overall understanding of basic programming for computer science undergraduates. We will design gamified labs that use game design elements such as points, badges, and leaderboards to motivate and engage students in learning basic programming concepts and techniques. We will conduct our research by conducting experiments with a group of computer science undergraduate students. Our research is ongoing, and we hope our findings will contribute to a better understanding of the effectiveness of gamification in computer science education. Ultimately, our goal is to provide insights into how gamification can be used to improve the quality of education in computer science and potentially other disciplines. Keywords: gamification, computer science, programming</p>

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<i>World of Music</i>	Nolan Lapp	Wendy Grice	I will be presenting a poster that shows the benefits of how music and singing can provide for everyone's everyday needs. Some benefits include helping with diseases such as Alzheimer's and Depression. Singing can also help with physical and mental health. People have become self-conscious about singing in public compared to 30 or 40 years ago. Singing used to be a part of everyday life. I will be taking a look at why people are afraid to sing in public. Some of the reasons people are afraid to sing in public include social anxiety, as well as gender bias. I will be looking into all of these things and see how they are all connected.
<i>Effects of Pesco-vegetarian Diet and Supplements on Protection Against Oxidative Stress in Hispanic Populations</i>	Kaitline Martin	Hisako Masuda	Free radicals are linked to aging and human diseases. Oral consumption of antioxidants has been shown to decrease free radicals in the human body. In this study, we investigated the effect of a pesco-vegetarian-based diet with ginger and turmeric supplements on free radical scavenging capacity of blood. Participants of a mainly Hispanic population between the ages of 18-45 were recruited to be on the diet for one week. Their blood was drawn before and after the diet. The antioxidant capacity of blood serum was assessed by the reaction with a free radical, 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH). A fluorescent microscope was used to determine the extent of DNA damage following the application of hydrogen peroxide by measuring the mobility of DNA fragments in low-melt agar. In this presentation our current progress with these two assays will be discussed.
<i>Theories of Skill Acquisition: Implications for Tennis Coaching</i>	Larissa O'Rourke	Tom Parry	"This article discusses different theories of skill learning, including ecological dynamics, and their implications for coaching and practice design. Concerns with current beliefs about skill acquisition and the associated traditional practice methods will be discussed. The major tenets of ecological dynamics will be presented, followed by some practice design recommendations for coaches. The goal of this paper is to introduce coaches to a more contemporary theoretical framework of skill acquisition that will drive the exploration of new practice methods to maximize skill development across all ages."(Parry, O'Rourke, 2023)
<i>Researching Progression of Sportsmanship Comprehension through Experience</i>	Jasper Redman	Meg Galasso	Sportsmanship exhibited by athletes, coaches, and spectators has been studied since the early 1800s. Specific topics regarding sportsmanship, such as existing differences in practice by gender, age, economic status, and culture have been studied, but it is difficult to determine the existence of data and analysis on if and how an athlete's comprehension of sportsmanship adapts to their experience in life and sport. Previous research has conducted examinations via ethnographic studies of specific age samples in order to find that the expression of sportsmanship is dependent on intersectionality but has not specifically compared the changes in an athlete's comprehension of sportsmanship over a specific period of time. We conduct a survey adapted from the Sportsmanship Attitude Scale developed by Dr. Sabry Ibrahim of Minia University to examine the answers of student athletes from five high schools in Howard County, Indiana and five of Indiana University's regional campuses. The student athletes sampled will be from teams for soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, track and field, cross country, football, golf, tennis, cheerleading, and marching band.

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<i>CBT in College Students with Anxiety</i>	Nancy Riddell	Kathryn Holcomb	This study focuses on the perceptions of efficacy of Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) for treating anxiety among college students over their overall grades. In this study I hypothesize that college students who have partaken in CBT believe that their overall grades will improve. In this study I hypothesize that college students who have not partaken in CBT will have higher anxiety than those college students who have partaken in CBT. This study's survey focuses on answering questions regarding behavioral health, anxiety, overall grades, and if they have or have not partaken in CBT. Taken together these findings will suggest Cognitive Behavior Therapy provides individuals with practical skills and strategies which can be used both academically as well as personally. Thus, CBT is beneficial for targeting areas of difficulties experienced by college students while promoting healthy relationships too.
<i>Exploring Individuality Through Mediums</i>	Adilene Rodriguez	Minda Douglas	The work I am presenting is an exploration of mixed media that expresses confidence and identity in the depicted portraits. I am going to be showing the process of my artistic practice by acquiring models and working with several mediums that reflect their individuality. I first research models, contact them, and study them. I then choose a variety of mediums, textures, and embellishments that will accentuate their confidence. I will be showing the progress of applying these mediums and 3-d elements that complement the look of a chosen picture. I will be showing three of my portraits that have visible progress from how I first started to now.
<i>Impacts of Pesco-Vegetarian Diet with Herbal Supplements on Cytokine Production</i>	Olivia Terry	Hisako Masuda	Diet affects the overall health of an organism. Consumption of meat is associated with an increased risk of diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer. In contrast, positive impacts of some herbs and spices on mammalian immune systems have been shown. This property is suggested to be linked to a high concentration of antioxidants. In this study, we investigated the effect of curcumin/turmeric and ginger on healthy human adults between the ages of 18-45. Participants were on the pesco-vegetarian diet with varying amounts of supplements for one week. RNA from participants' blood was extracted, and the expression of genes were analyzed by reverse transcription qPCR. The levels of three inflammatory cytokines, IL-1 α , IL-6, and TNF- α , were analyzed with a hope to determine possible correlations between diet, supplements, and cytokine gene expression. Our current findings will be presented.
<i>Lucid Lane</i>	Hayden Turner	Erin Doss	The wood-burning art piece is a stunning representation of a road in a 4-point perspective, being pulled into a black hole. The non-representational buildings are sucked into the same black hole, adding to the chaotic and surreal atmosphere. The piece is stained in a rich mahogany color, adding depth and warmth to work. The inspiration for this art project comes from the growing problem of overpopulation in big cities. As cities become more crowded, the environment suffers, and more buildings are constructed, further contributing to the destruction of natural spaces. The art piece highlights the negative impact of this trend and serves as a cautionary reminder of the importance of preserving our environment. Using wood-burning techniques and the striking visual imagery of the black hole, I have created a unique and thought-provoking work that challenges the viewer to reflect on the consequences of urban expansion. The result is a beautiful and evocative piece of art that successfully communicates a powerful message.

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<i>Physical Activity Interventions Among Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Systematic Reviews</i>	Logan Vander Velden	Ghadah Alshuwaiyer	Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is characterized by persistent deficits in social communication and restrictive, repetitive patterns of behavior or interests. Children diagnosed with ASD often struggle to perform age-related fine and gross motor skills. Physical activity intervention has been shown to play a crucial part in all children's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development, regardless of the child's unique characteristics. The main objective of this systematic review was to assess the effectiveness of different physical activity programs on children with ASD both physically and socially, which are two domains that children with ASD are generally affected most. The systematic review evaluated 15 intervention studies with multiple interventions among children aged 5-13. Ten studies found significant improvements in fine and gross motor skills. Also, four studies found a significant increase in both social skills. However, it is difficult to determine which intervention has the most significant improvement due to the variation of offered programs. Future studies should be longitudinal in nature to document changes over time.
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Making Connections: Education, Music, Sports and Fashion

Presentation Session – 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Project Title	Presenter	Faculty Mentor	Abstract
<i>Perceived Psychological Nearness: Online and Face-to-Face Educational Relationships</i>	Emily Pattyn, Kaylee Weeks	Chris Darr	This survey examines the results of how students perceive the amount they learned through online classes and face-to-face classes, and if perceived psychological nearness in an instructor-student relationship makes a difference. The authors surveyed 153 students from Indiana University Kokomo and surrounding Indiana colleges. They asked questions regarding perceived learning outcomes and perceived relationships with instructors and students in their online and face-to-face classes. Results show a moderate correlation between perceived learning and instructor-student relationships in face-to-face courses. The authors also found a strong correlation between perceived online learning and instructor-student relationships. These results confirm the questioned hypothesis that students perceive they learn more through face-to-face education than online educational instruction. Keywords: psychological nearness, perceived learning, online classes, face-to-face classes, perceived instructor-student relationship
NO BiAS Fashion brand/marketing and content creation	Danya Tabar	Erin Doss	Working for NO BiAS as a content creator involves running the Instagram account, developing campaigns and shoots, measuring analytics, and growing the platform. As a content creator, you will be responsible for creating engaging and compelling content that resonates with NO BiAS's audience. This may include developing social media campaigns, collaborating with influencers, and producing original photography and video content. One of the primary objectives of the content creator is to help grow the platform. This means identifying opportunities to reach new

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			audiences and developing strategies to engage and retain existing followers. Additionally, the content creator will be responsible for measuring the success of campaigns and using data to optimize future efforts.
<i>Mental Effects of Playing Sports</i>	Grady Davis	Chris Darr Erin Doss	This paper will go into topics involving the mental benefits of playing sports. When playing sports, it is not often thought about and it will be brought into the light. The hypothesis of this paper proposes that people who participate in sports are more likely to have better mental health than those who don't. The experiment that is conducted will take a look at how people's mental health is affected by looking at athletes and nonathletes with gender and age factoring in as well. Keywords: mental health, affect, sports, playing, athletes, nonathletes
<i>Journalism Interviewing Done Differently</i>	Adam Garner	Erin Doss	Having the ability to have my own platform where I can meet new people with interesting events and stories to share. I enjoy learning about new cultures and backgrounds, hopefully I will be able to reach a population who are interested in human existence and the beauty people make of it.
<i>Student Engagement and Classroom Conditions: Looks Matter</i>	Avia Dow, Jared Hickman	Chris Darr	This study was conceived of to study and analyze the correlation between students' academic performance and the acting Professor's attractiveness. By using Qualtrics, data was gathered from 249 participants and up to twelve questions were presented to the participants. Participants were taken from various situations such as: social media platforms, on-campus, and off-campus. A moderate correlation was seen from having an attractive professor and a higher grade within said class. With these data results being found, we can conclude that in some situations, the correlation of students' academic performance and acting Professor's attractiveness go hand in hand. Other variables intended as only distractions also lead us to consider that other underlying factors may influence both of our variables.
<i>Music and the Brain</i>	Nate Slack	Ron Withers	My work will summarize a variety of content learned in the class of East-West encounters in Music, a class I took in the fall/Winter of 2022 and thoroughly enjoyed. I will look at a brief history of music as well as looking at the effects of music on the brain. Lastly, I will share content from a project I worked on in the class, that showcases a song that I believe summarizes what I have learned about Music in the class that relates to me personally.