The Winesett Awards open in the Spring Semester.

Projects completed by Radford University students from Spring 2024 through Fall 2024 are eligible, as well as draft projects underway in the Spring 2025 semester.

Applications must include:

1. A draft or final version of your research project, in Word, PowerPoint, or PDF format. The project must include a bibliography of sources used in its creation.
2. An essay describing the following related to your research project:

    ● Research strategies

    ● Use of any library services and resources

    ● Evidence of personal learning and development of your research skills.

    This essay is given the greatest weight in the judging process, see criteria below. Essay should be between 400 and 600 words.

3. [A Statement of Support](#) completed by your class instructor. This is a separate form your instructor must fill out in order for your application to be considered complete.

Please do not submit any other materials, such as portfolios or sources.

Selection Criteria

A panel composed of librarians/library staff, teaching faculty from different colleges, and (if available) a student advisory board member will judge entries based on how well they demonstrate the following:
● Originality, depth, breadth, or sophistication in the use of library collections
● Exceptional ability to select, evaluate, and synthesize library resources and successfully use them in the creation of a project or paper
● Evidence of personal learning and development of research skills
The essay describing your research techniques will be given the most weight in the judging process.

Rubric for Judging Library Research Award Applications

The objective of the awards is to recognize creative and original library research. Winning papers/projects should illustrate exemplary use of Radford University Libraries tools and resources and development of information-gathering skills.

Categories	Serious contender	Still in the running	Grounds for elimination
ESSAY: Provided details about tools and resources used	Explained search techniques and why specific databases were used	Named specific library tools and resources	Spoke in generalities ("used the library search engines") with few details
ESSAY: Use of McConnell or RUC Library	Discussed how our libraries helped their research	Resources used are from our library	Using other libraries more than RU libraries; using just Google
ESSAY: Learning of and development of information gathering skills	Description of how they did their research; what they learned in terms of research skills	Gives a sense of how research was done and what was learned	No real development of information gathering skills is evident
ESSAY: Your writing level (e.g., spelling, grammar, title, mechanics, structure, effective messaging, etc.) will be considered in the selection process.	Essay is well written with a minimum of grammatical and spelling errors	Essay is adequately written with few grammatical and spelling errors	Essay is poorly written and/or riddled with grammatical and spelling errors
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPER/PROJECT: Comparison to essay	Sources in bibliography match the description in the essay	Sources in bibliography fit with the essay but are not a perfect match	Sources in bibliography do not match with the essay
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPER/PROJECT: Creativity	Sources are a mix of different formats and some are unexpected for an undergraduate to use	Sources may be in fewer formats (e.g. just journals) but show an impressive range of publications and databases	Sources are all from the same database or are mostly websites
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPER/PROJECT: Length	Number of sources exceeds expectations	Number of sources is adequate for project	Few sources are listed
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION	Instructor speaks positively of the paper and explains why the student is a strong candidate	Instructor shares details of the assignment and supports the student's application	Instructor does not support the student's application
PAPER/PROJECT: Use of sources	Student has used their sources well	Student has used all of their sources, but	Student has not used all of their sources,

	throughout the paper/project	relied on one or two more heavily	or has not used them well
PAPER/PROJECT: Writing level	Well written with a minimum of grammatical and spelling errors	Adequately written with a minimum of grammatical and spelling errors	Poorly written and/or riddled with grammatical and spelling errors

The selection committee will review your paper/project as though it were an assignment for a course. Although this part of the submission is weighted less than your essay, it is important that the submission itself is a strong example of academic achievement.

Expectations for achievement will be commensurate with the applicant's class year and the requirements of the discipline.