



## Call for Outstanding Master's Research Paper Award Applications

The Research Committee of the Association of Literacy Educators & Researchers sponsors competitions for an outstanding paper written to complete requirements for a master's or specialist's degree program. Winners will receive certificates of merit and will be invited to discuss the paper at ALER's 2017 Conference. The award recipients will be invited to submit a manuscript to the ALER Yearbook based on a version of their paper, or their presentation.

### ***To apply for the master's research paper award***

Master's research papers may include papers written to complete requirements for a master's or specialist's degree program (e.g., action research, commentary, problem or capstone paper, theoretical paper or thesis).

**1. Entries should be in the form of a manuscript and should not exceed 3750 words (15 pages).**

Manuscripts must be typewritten and double-spaced, including quotes and references. Tables and appendices that provide essential information (e.g., instrumentation or other procedures central to the investigation) may be included. References, tables, and appendices will not be counted as a part of the total number of pages or word count.

The **title page** should provide the following information:

- complete title of the paper
- name of the university
- name and number of the course for which the paper was written
- date the course or paper was completed
- name, mailing address, and e-mail address of the faculty sponsor
- name, mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the applicant.

**An abstract of 75-150 words should provide a summary of the purpose and major findings of the study.** The title of the study should appear on the abstract, but there should be no other identifying information.

**Entries must be accompanied by a signed letter from the faculty sponsor on official letterhead** indicating the course for which the paper was written and the date of completion of the course or attesting to the degree and the date of its award. Letters on electronic letterhead with a scanned signature may be emailed to Dr. Michael Manderino at [michael.manderino@gmail.com](mailto:michael.manderino@gmail.com) or, using institution letterhead, sent to **M. Manderino at 40 Westmoreland Lane, Naperville, IL 60540.**

3. Master's or specialist degree scholarly works completed **between December 1, 2015 and June 1, 2017** will be considered. More than one master's research paper may be submitted from a single university.
4. The applicant's degree program can be in any discipline; however, the topic of the paper must have direct relationship to some aspect of literacy.
5. Entries should conform to the official style of the sponsoring university or the APA style guidelines for manuscript submissions.
6. An entry may be eliminated from the competition if the applicant fails to follow submission guidelines, exceeds word limits, or submits an incomplete entry. Final determination will be made by the co-chairs of the ALER Research Committee.
7. All entries will be judged by no fewer than three judges who are members of ALER. The decision of the judges will be final.

**E-mail master's research paper entries to Michael Manderino by August 5, 2017 to [michael.manderino@gmail.com](mailto:michael.manderino@gmail.com). Send documents as PDF (preferred) or Word attachments including the**

**title page, abstract, and manuscript. Signed letters from the faculty sponsor may be emailed to [michael.manderino@gmail.com](mailto:michael.manderino@gmail.com).**