

# THE MOUNTAINEER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH REVIEW

Volume 8, April 2023

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**Website URL** <https://undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu/present-and-publish/murr>

**Email** [murr.wvu@gmail.com](mailto:murr.wvu@gmail.com)

**Cover Synopsis** Illustration by Shaun Wilson

*No matter what we're writing—science, history, math – all our ideas must come from somewhere. The diversity of research undertaken by undergraduate students at WVU is vast, and it's their innovation and individuality that I seek to honor with this cover. Our brain and what we can do with it, how we turn thoughts and ideas into tangible research and results, is highlighted as the focal point of this cover. The underlying commonality between all the breadth of research that is presented in our undergraduate journal at WVU is where these ideas first start. The beginning of all our best research begins with the brain the same way the beginning of all research journals begins with a cover that honors the content that follows.*

*My original cover includes a brain with a paper texture as the background. The composite whole represents the printing of knowledge and ideas on paper the same way the journal does. My design process included digitally drawing a brain made of ink. This involved a lot of sketching on paper, then developing the final element in photoshop. The organic nature and implied movement of the brain was a particular feeling I wanted to accomplish. I used my knowledge of composition, balance, and white space to create a focal point on the brain. Behind this is a paper texture as the background; this was meant to create a journalistic sensation for the viewer and add texture to the composition. Keeping the design simple yet attractive was important because I wanted the design to grab the viewer's attention while also not distracting from the information on the cover.*