

# Preface

There is no shortage of advice on making effective conference presentations; a Google search of that phrase yielded 432,000,000 results. However, much of this information is general rather than focused on the types of presentations made by teachers/scholars in Academia. Making effective presentations to fellow professionals at conferences is an important contribution for educators at all levels, from basic through higher education. This *SpringerBriefs in Education* prepares teachers, college students, and higher education faculty to conduct various types of presentations, including: (1) workshops and professional trainings, (2) poster sessions, (3) panel discussions, (4) roundtables, (5) research forums, and (6) technology-supported presentations. It takes the approach of a “paper mentor” that guides readers through the use of templates, specific examples, and a wide range of online resources.

## Why This Monograph at This Time?

In reviewing the literature on making effective conference presentations, several areas were lacking.

1. Most other writings on this topic consist of a collection of tips for presenters rather than a review of the relevant literature; this monograph reviews the literature across disciplines to provide a wide array of authoritative resources for presenters.
2. No other books we found in our literature review included the full range of presentations possible at professional conferences. This SpringerBriefs includes conference session formats that were not discussed elsewhere, such as presenting from afar with technology support, planning a panel discussion, or preparing a research poster session.
3. Other books about making effective conference presentations did not speak to presenters at different levels of experience, from novice to expert.

This SpringerBriefs provides support to presenters from graduate students making their initial foray into conference presentations to tenured, full professors seeking to hone their craft as keynote speakers.

4. Other titles did not actually *teach* the reader how to accomplish important tasks; the proposed SpringerBriefs includes a wide array of helpful tools, examples, and templates to assist readers in planning, proposing, conducting, and evaluating conference presentations.
5. We conducted an extensive search of authoritative online sources about making conference presentations that are easily accessed and free of charge. Each chapter includes an annotated list of the most helpful online resources.

We approached writing this SpringerBriefs as an answer to two important questions: (1) What do we wish we had understood long ago, when we first started presenting at conferences? and (2) What book could simultaneously serve as a resource for the more experienced scholar? With these goals in mind, we have prepared a comprehensive and concise guide to many different types of conference presentations and guidance in developing strategies that support successful outcomes for teachers, scholars, and researchers.

Making Effective Presentations at Professional  
Conferences

A Guide for Teachers, Graduate Students and  
Professors

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