2021 CARS Paper Presentation Guidelines: Online Edition!

We invite you to submit work reflective of outstanding student research for presentation at CARS. The CARS paper presentations give students an opportunity to showcase work that represents a range of disciplinary and individual interests, to enter into conversation with other presenters and with the larger campus community, and to gain first-hand experience with conference-style panel presentations. We accept analysis-driven research papers on any topic, and we encourage students to find inspiration in course assignments, in course content, in their planned career fields, and in independent reading or exploration.

This year's presentations will be delivered online, using the conference collaboration software Symposium. Panelists and audience members will gather in a setting much like a Zoom meeting, where each panelist will share their paper and take questions from the audience. While we will miss the intimacy of in-person presentations, we will gain the ability to include panelists and audience members who would not otherwise be able to participate due to geography, mobility or other challenges to attending on-campus events.

Students are welcome to submit individually or to form a panel with a shared topical focus. Individual submissions will be grouped into such panels from the pool of accepted proposals. Presentation panels will include 3 or 4 speakers, and each will be 60 minutes in length. In panels with 4 presenters, each speaker will have 12 minutes to present, leaving 12 minutes at the end of the panel for questions and discussion. In panels with 3 presenters, each speaker will have 15 minutes to present, leaving 15 minutes at the end of the panel for questions and discussion.

Panelists who wish to share audio-visual elements will be free to do so using screen sharing within the online conference platform. Slides and other visual elements should enhance rather than distract from the overall presentation, and panelists should avoid reading from text-heavy slides. Panelists may, however, wish to speak from notes or an outline, to read entirely from prepared text, or to combine the two forms in some way.

In preparing for CARS it will be important to edit your notes, outline, or paper so that your project may be clearly and effectively presented in the allotted time. Panel chairs will inform presenters when they have 2 minutes remaining and when their time is up. Panelists should not exceed their allotted 12 or 15 minutes because doing so "steals" time from other presenters or from the end-of-panel conversation. For this reason, and to be sure presentations are clear and cogent, panelists should rehearse before presenting. Individual panelists should also consider the work of their fellow presenters; in situations where the projects align or draw on similar material, working together to decide who will cover what can be an effective time management strategy.

Remember that when presenting complex arguments orally it is especially important to signpost for listeners your thesis statement and key ideas that support it. Given the time limits, it is likely that your presentation will be a shorter version of a longer original paper, so it can be helpful to

provide context. Presenters might define the scope of their presentation with something like, “In my longer essay I address X, Y and Z; today, in the interest of time, I’ll focus only on X.”

We look forward to receiving your submissions and to learning about your work! If you have questions about the submission process or about the presentations themselves, please feel free to email Dr. Ed Wiltse at ewiltse6@naz.edu.