

# 2007 CIC/SROP Conference

## Research Roundtable Presentation Guidelines

### For CIC/SROP Scholars

Committee on Institutional Cooperation  
Summer Research Opportunities Program Conference  
Purdue University  
July 26-29, 2007

#### INTRODUCTION

The 2007 CIC/SROP Conference offers CIC/SROP scholars an excellent opportunity to present a wide range of research from initial research ideas, works-in-progress, to more developed projects. This document includes presentation guidelines, suggestions for preparing your presentation, and links to examples and resources online.

Presenting your research ideas and efforts at the annual CIC/SROP conference advances your professional development in several ways. For example, you will:

- Obtain helpful *insights, ideas, encouragement, and feedback* to help shape your research
- Gain valuable *presentation experience* early in your career
- Extend your *professional network* beyond your immediate SROP program and home campus
- Expand your *résumé or curriculum vitae*
- Enhance your *application for graduate study*

If you have not presented research at an academic conference, the CIC/SROP Conference is a good place to begin as it provides a collegial and supportive setting.

Discuss your presentation(s) with mentors, advisors, and SROP staff as you prepare for the conference. They can provide guidance and feedback or direct you to other resources available to address your questions or concerns.

## QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY PRESENTERS:

**1) What** are you researching?

State the nature of the issue, topic or problem that you are studying.

Include at least 1-2 questions your research addresses and, if possible, state your formal hypotheses (tentative assumptions you are testing through your research).

*Possible headings:*

- **Purpose**
- **Objective**
- **Issue**
- **Research question**
- **Problem**
- **Hypothesis**
- **Thesis**
- **Major points**
- **Premises**

**2) Why** are you re-searching this topic?

Briefly explain what is known about the issue, topic or problem (background).

Also explain why you are researching it. For example, why is it important? Why does it interest you? What new information can you add with your research?

*Possible headings:*

- **Justification**
- **Rationale**
- **Motivation**
- **Significance**
- **Background**

**3) How** are you re-searching this topic?

Describe what you are doing and materials you are using, e.g., lab experiments designed or conducted, interviews, surveys, library research/literature review, subjects/populations studied, conditions examined, etc.

Also note theories used, developed or demonstrated.

(Address what applies to research in your field.)

*Possible headings:*

- **Methods**
- **Methodology**
- **Design**
- **Study population**
- **Research Subjects**

**4) What is the status** of your research?

Describe the status of your project, e.g., your initial observations (if any) and future directions; or describe your results and your conclusions (e.g., supporting or not supporting your hypothesis). What problems have you encountered? What have you learned? What do you hope to learn?

*Possible headings:*

- **Current status**
- **Progress toward results**
- **Results**
- **Discussion** (interpretation of results)
- **Conclusions**
- **Limitations of research**
- **Implications**

**ADVANCED QUESTIONS:** Presentations for research beyond the initial stage should include most, if not all, of the following:

- Statement of the problem or issue
- Brief background or literature review (what is already known about the problem?)
- Hypotheses (what you want to test or what you think you will find). Include one to three research questions.
- Methods (what you did or plan to do)
- Results (what you found or think you will find)
- Discussion (what the results might mean)
- Significance (why is what you are testing important and what new information can it add?)
- Limitations of research
- Future research directions

## Research Roundtable Sessions

[TBA, Saturday, July 28, 2007]

**All CIC/SROP scholars participate in the Research Roundtable sessions.** Roundtables involve small groups of SROP scholars (8-10) making brief presentations and answering questions about their research. Faculty and graduate student facilitators moderate presentations and facilitate discussion about the projects and about research in general. **There will be no overhead projectors or computer equipment available for roundtable sessions.**

The purpose of roundtable sessions is to give you, as student researchers, an opportunity to discuss your research with one another in a collegial and supportive setting while broadening your view of research, scholarship, and creativity. Thus, all roundtable participants are encouraged to join the facilitator in raising thoughtful questions and offering suggestions to colleagues in the roundtable session.

### *Roundtable Assignments*

- Each student will be assigned to a research roundtable based on their summer research topics.
- There will be approximately 50-60 roundtable discussion groups of 8-10 students each.
  - A list of the roundtables and locations will be included in your conference registration packet.

### *Facilitators & Format*

- Each roundtable will have 1-2 faculty and/or graduate student facilitators from a related discipline.
- Facilitators will allow each student 5-10 minutes to present their project and to answer questions. Facilitators are responsible for:
  - Making sure each roundtable participant has an opportunity to present.
  - Keeping discussion going, including asking questions, offering suggestions, and encouraging other participants to do the same.
- If time permits, discussion may include other research topics (e.g., strategies, current debates) and careers in academia.

### *Presentation*

- Each student will:
  - 1) **Present a summary of their research** following an outline similar to that suggested for poster presentations, including:
    - **Title**
    - **Purpose or objective** [*what you're researching*]  
Include a thesis or proposition and major points or premises.
    - **Rationale or significance** [*why you're researching this topic, issue, problem*]  
Provide brief background and why the project is important, what it will contribute.

- **Methodology** [*how you're researching this topic, issue, problem*]  
Library research, lab experiments, interviews, etc.
  - **Status of project** [*where you're at in the research project*]  
Include any problems you've encountered
  - **Tentative conclusions, if any**
  - **Mentor's role in the project**
- 2) **Distribute a one-page handout** on your research to roundtable colleagues and session facilitator(s). **There will be no overhead projectors or computer equipment available for roundtable sessions.**
- Prepare this handout, based on your research, prior to the conference.
  - Bring 15 copies of the handout to your session. (Yes, this is greater than the anticipated number of participants per roundtable session, but it's always a good idea to bring extras!)
  - If you are also presenting a poster during this conference, consider distributing your one-page handout during that session as well.

## Resources Online

### Conference Presentations (including posters)

*Publishing and Presenting* – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services lists links to articles on conference posters and presentations, including how to create large-format posters using Power Point, at <http://www.training.nih.gov/careers/careercenter/publish.html>

### Writing

*Writing for Specific Fields* – The Writing Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has several handouts on writing in art history, political science and other fields of study at <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/index.html>

### Writing Abstracts

*Abstract* – Purdue University's Online Writing Lab offers another nice brief guide to writing abstracts at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/reportW/abstract.html>

*Guidelines for Abstracts* – Annual St. Cloud State University Student Research Colloquium <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/src/guidelines.asp>

### Examples of Undergraduate Research Abstracts

*Science & Engineering abstracts* – Annual St. Cloud State University Student Research Colloquium 2001, [http://www.stcloudstate.edu/src/past\\_proceedings/2001abstract/sessionC2001.asp](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/src/past_proceedings/2001abstract/sessionC2001.asp)

*Fine Arts & Humanities abstracts* – Annual St. Cloud State University Student Research Colloquium 2001,

[http://www.stcloudstate.edu/src/past\\_proceedings/2001abstract/sessionE2001.asp](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/src/past_proceedings/2001abstract/sessionE2001.asp)

*Behaviors Sciences abstracts* – Annual St. Cloud State University Student Research Colloquium 2001, [http://www.stcloudstate.edu/src/past\\_proceedings/2001abstract/sessionG2001.asp](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/src/past_proceedings/2001abstract/sessionG2001.asp)

*Education, Fine Arts & Humanities, Science & Engineering, Social Science abstracts* – Annual St. Cloud State University Student Research Colloquium 2004,

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/src/colloquium/search.asp>