Presenting Work in Progress

Hunter Student
Research Conference
Workshop

12/1/2022

UNIVERSITY *of* VIRGINIA | PhD**Plus**

University of Virginia | PhDPlus

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Pronouns: he/him/his

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Purpose of Conferencing

What are your reasons for attending/presenting at a conference?

- Stay up to date on research
- Meet other scholars/build a network
- Share your research
- Practice presentation skills
- Discuss your research
  - why it matters
  - what resonates
  - what's confusing
- Get feedback on ongoing research and future directions

- Share your work
- Receive feedback on ideas
- Identify potential methods
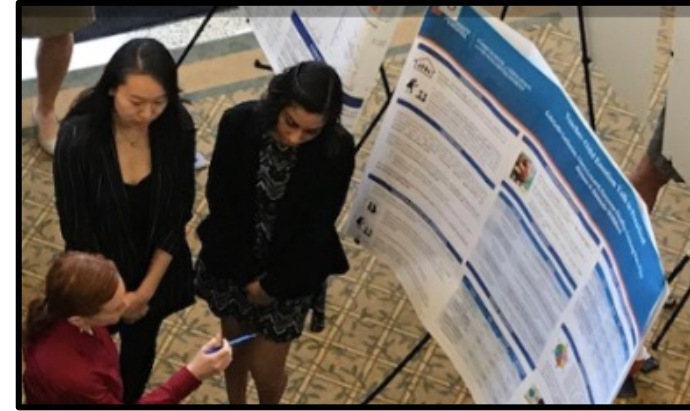- Explore partnerships

Reasons to Present Work in Progress

Reasons to Present Work in Progress – Be Specific

- Share your work
- Receive feedback on ideas
- Identify potential methods
- Explore partnerships

- Receive feedback on your study design
- Get perspectives on interpreting results
- Learn about other unpublished studies
- Share future plans and next steps

Places you might present WIP
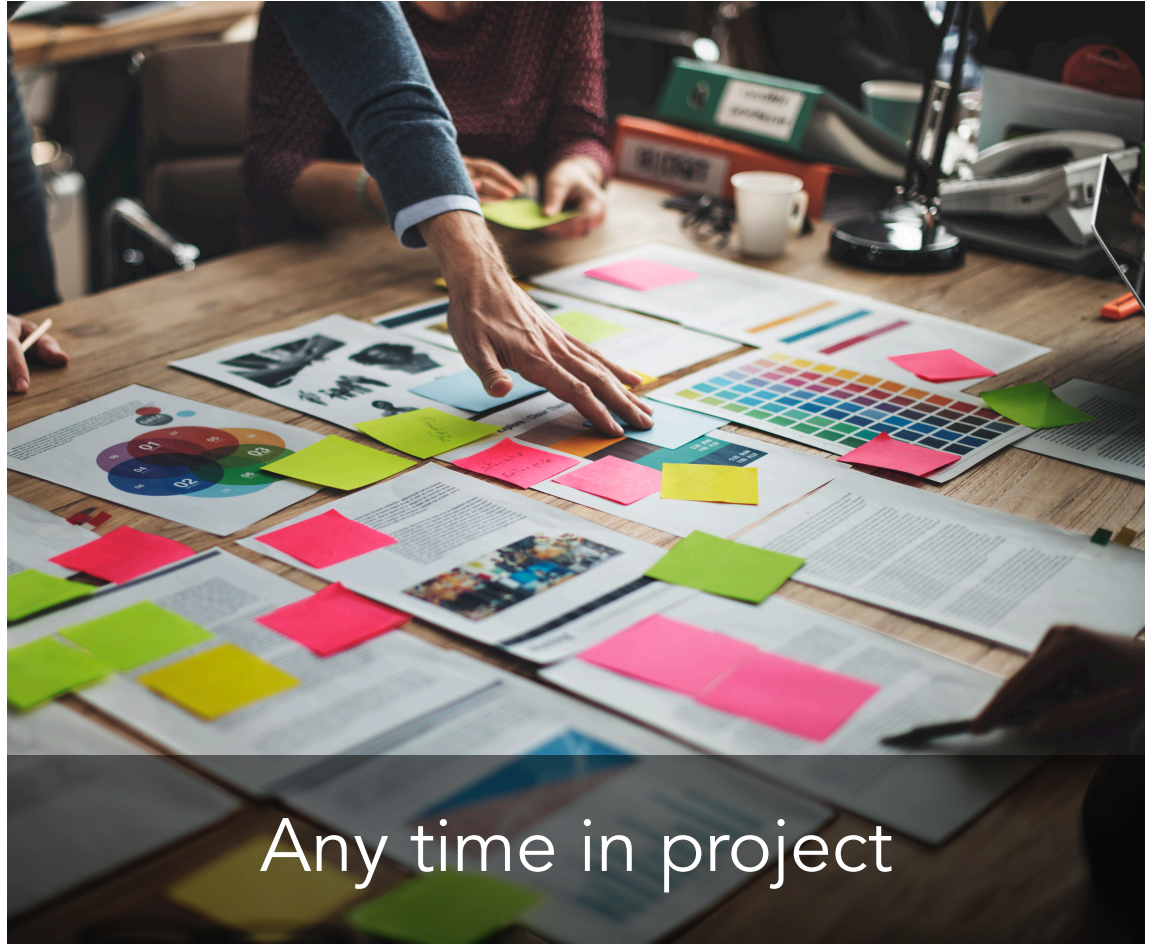

Conference presentations

Poster presentations

Departmental presentations

Lab Meetings/Classes

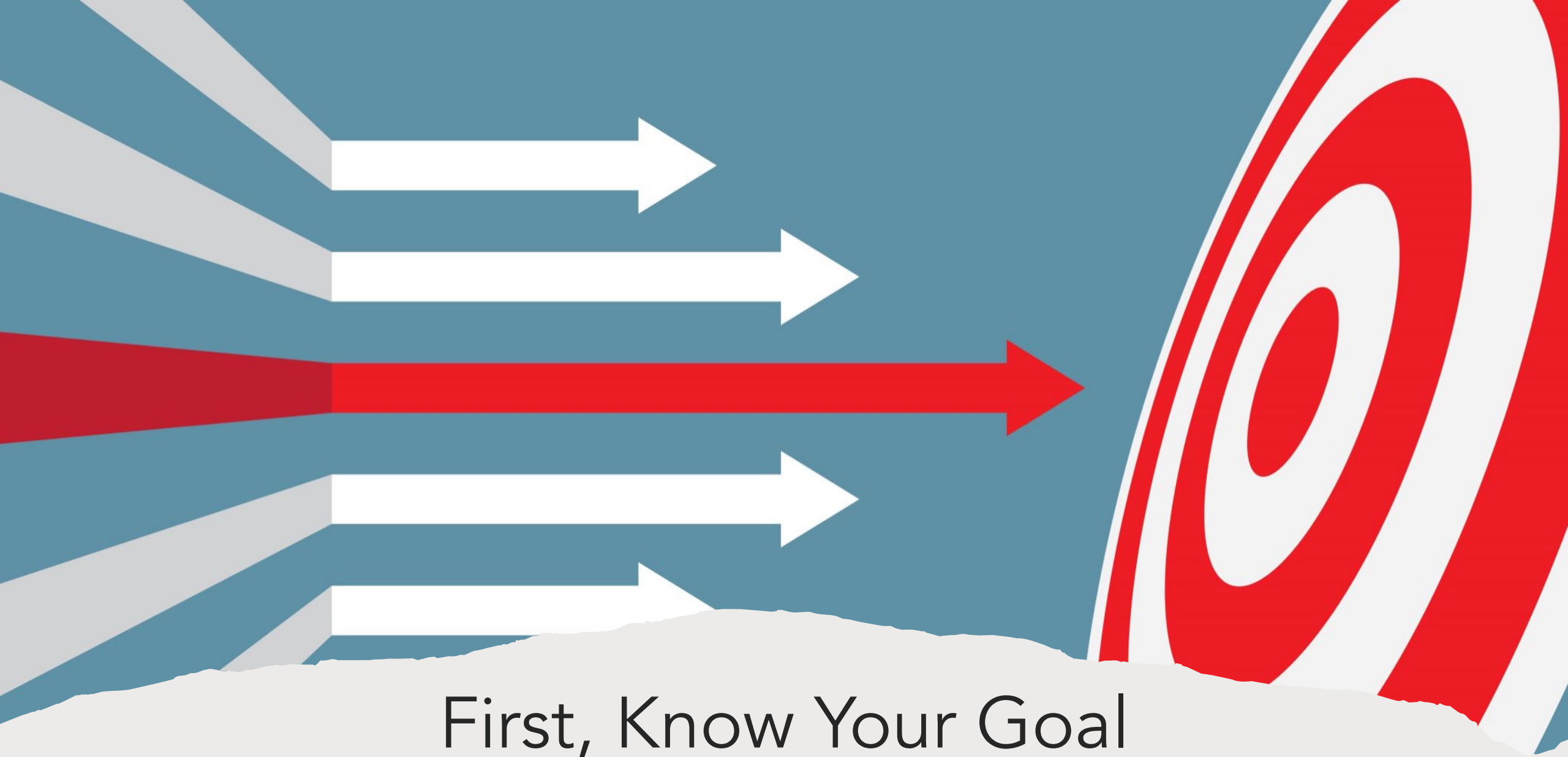Talking with your advisor

Any time in career

Any time in project

Deciding When to Present

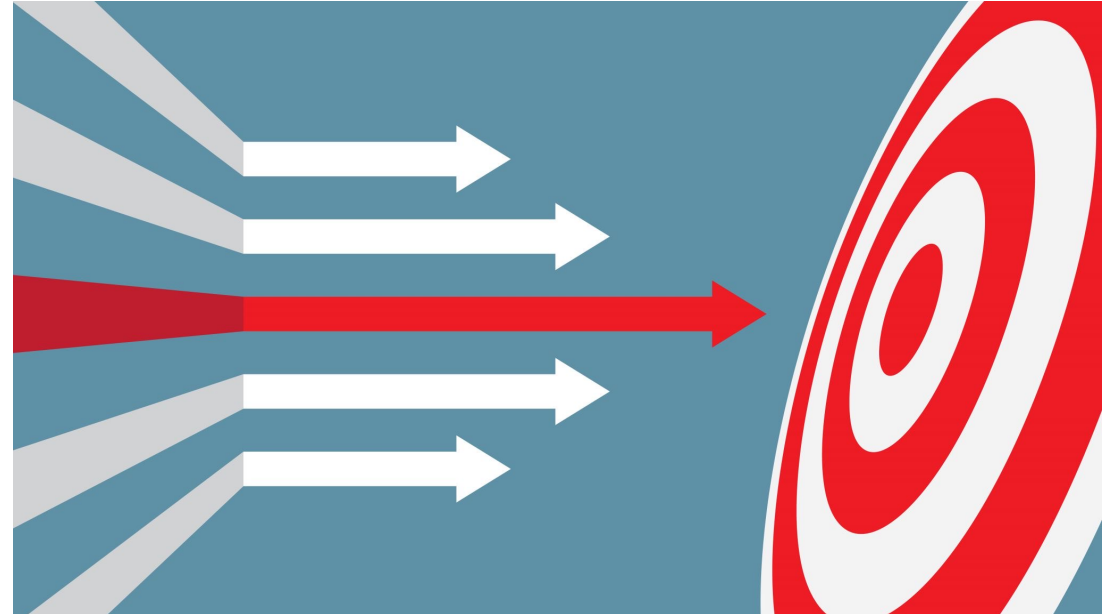# How to Prepare a Work in Progress Presentation

First, Know Your Goal

Next, Structure to Achieve Your Goal

Tell a Story

Typical Academic Format	Introduction/Overview
	Background/Lit Review
	Research Question
	Methodology/Case Selection
	Discussion of Data/Results
	Analysis
	Conclusion

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Typical Academic Format

Introduction/Overview

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Instead try

Brief anecdote

Status quo world

Problem with status quo

Plan for journey of discovery

Terrain traversed in plan so far

Where you're hitting roadblocks

Mobilize us to help!

Story vs. Journal Article

- Protagonist
  - Motivation
  - Sense of purpose
- Foregrounds conflict
- Engages Audience

Instead try	
	Brief anecdote
	Status quo world
	Problem with status quo
	Plan for journey of discovery
	Terrain traversed in plan so far
	Where you're hitting roadblocks
	Mobilize us to help!

1. Brief Anecdote

Goals:

- Get us to care
- Help us understand the human problem
- *Show us,* don't simply tell
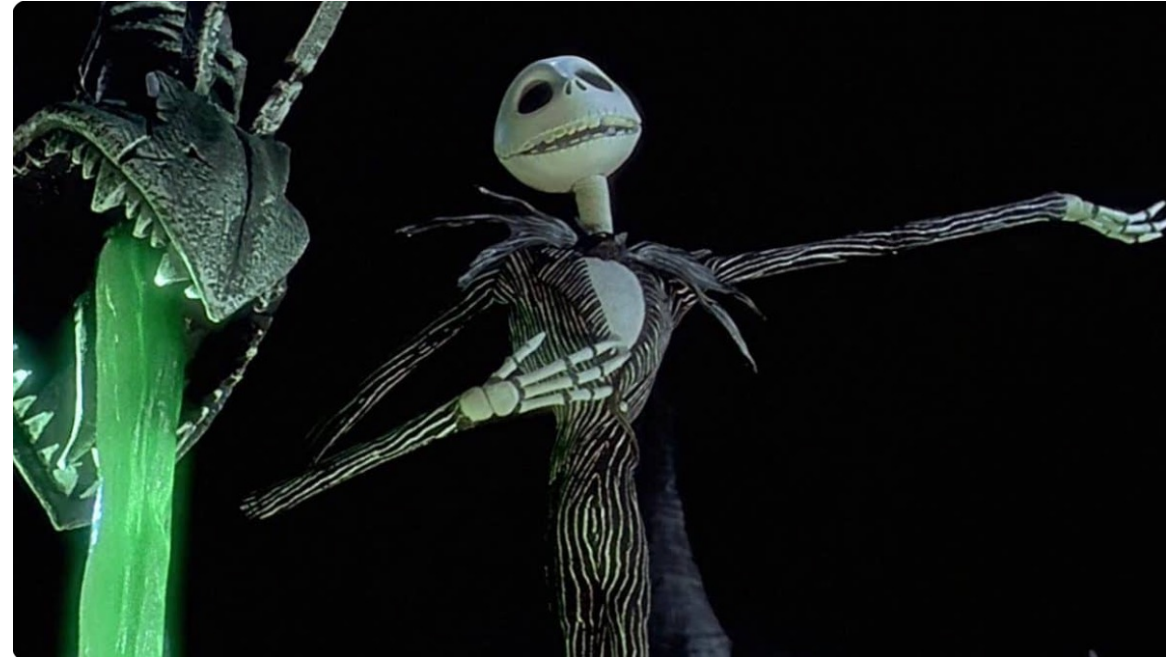
1. Brief Anecdote - Ideas

- Personal story
- Something you read in the news
- [Anonymized] story about a study participant
- Start with a specific example and then connect it to larger statistics
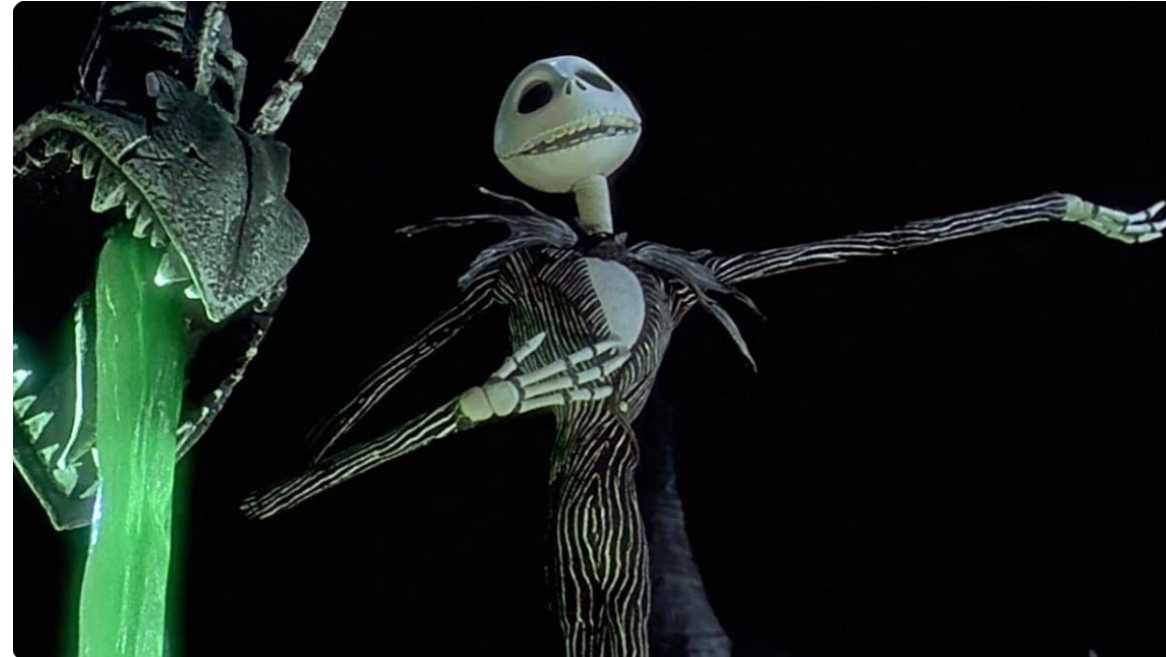
2. Status Quo World

Goals:

- Show us how things currently are in your topic

- Only as much "lit review" as necessary

2. Status Quo World - Ideas

- What scholars currently say (that you want to prove wrong)
- What currently policy is (that you want to change)
- What current treatments are for the condition you study (that you want to improve)
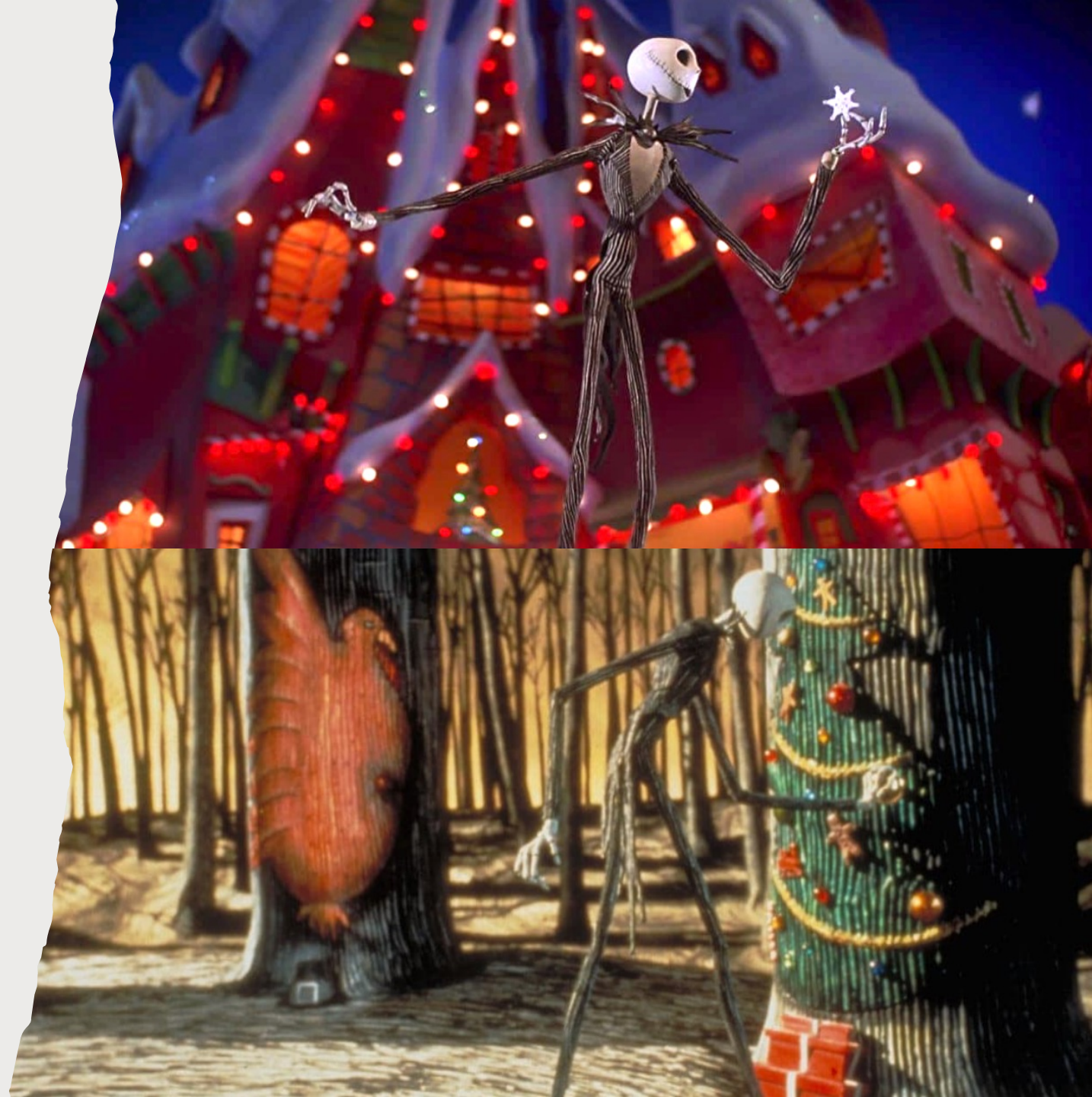
3. Problem with Status Quo

Goals:

- Articulate the problem with the status quo and, thus, *your motivation*

- Lay out the stakes of the problem

4. Plan for Your Journey of Discovery

Goals:

- Show us how you intend to solve the mystery, find solutions, or answer your questions

- What's new about what you're doing?

Conducted Lit Review

Performed Experiments

Recruited Study Participants

5. Terrain Traversed in Plan So Far

Goals:

- Show us what you've done/what you know so far

- Be selective!

6. Where your investigation is hitting roadblocks

Goal:

- Help us better understand the questions you have for us

Unhappy Advisor

Unruly Data

7. Happy Conclusion

Goals:

- What you found and how it has the potential to affect the status quo for the better (research impact)

- What new questions have been identified

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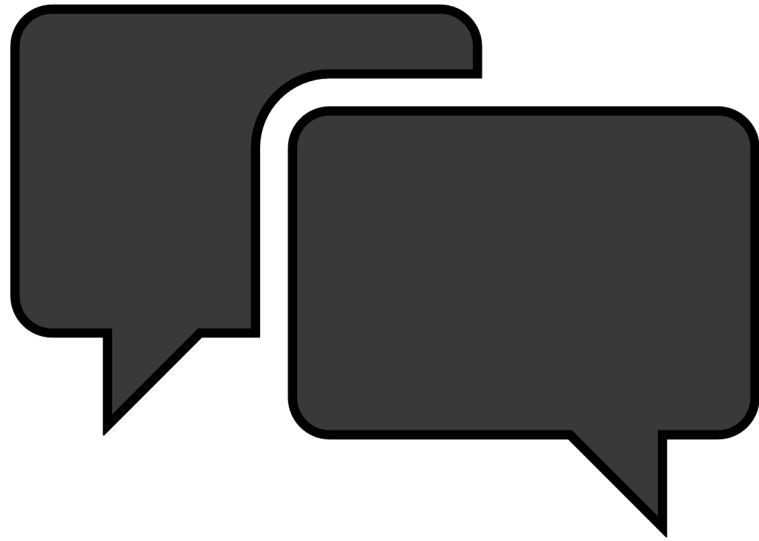
Mobilize the Audience to Help

Goals:

- Enable us to answer questions you established at the beginning

Getting Feedback

Guide the Conversation

- Ask a friend to take notes

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- End with specific questions

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- Go with the flow…
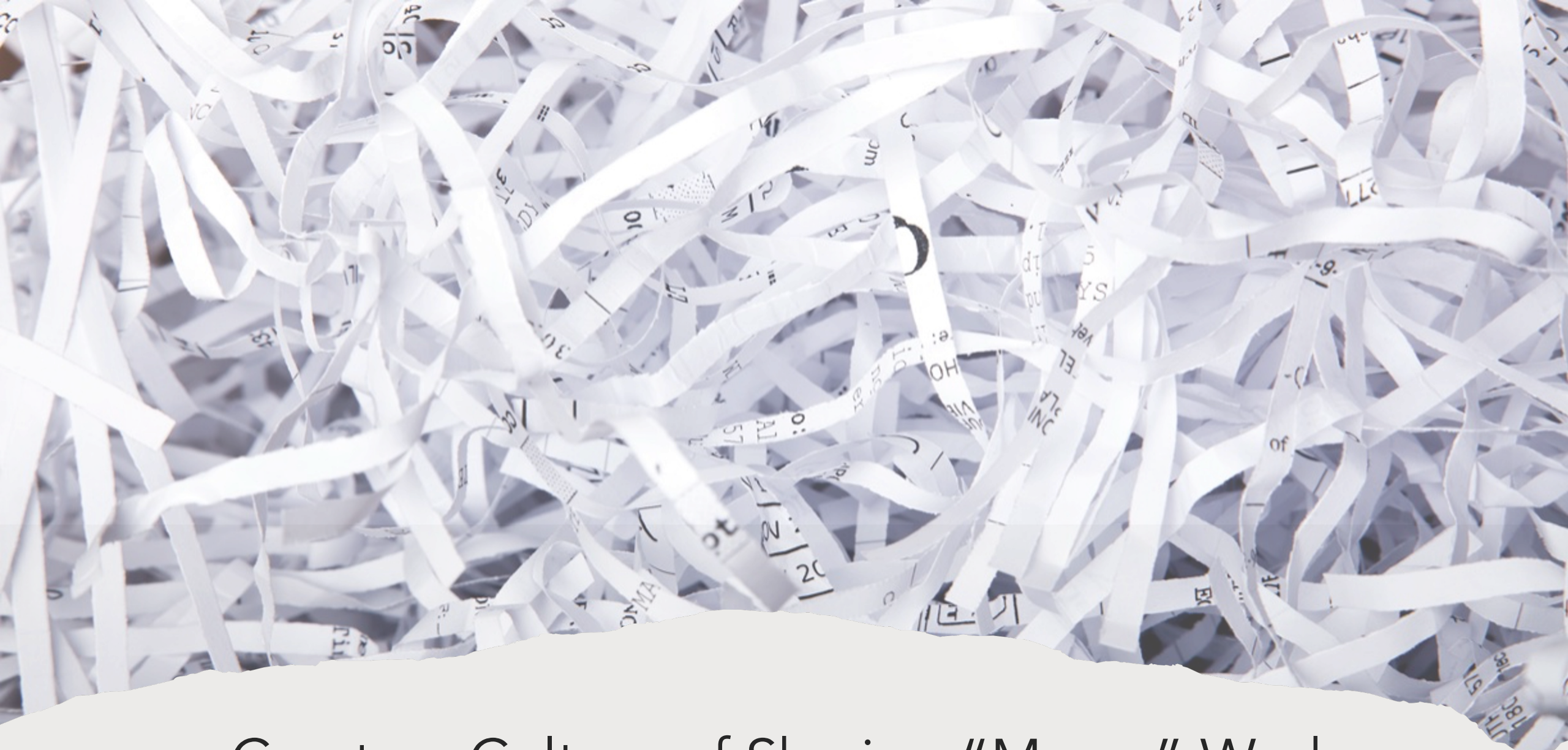
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- But remind us of your objectives

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- Go with the flow…
- But remind us of your objectives
- When possible, invite peers and faculty mentors

Create a Culture of Sharing "Messy" Work

Responding to WIPs

- Share supportive and constructive suggestions

- <u>No</u> judgment allowed!

- Lend your perspective and expertise

- Don't be afraid to brainstorm creatively

- Say what you like about the project and what you think is working well

- Try not to stray from the objectives of the presenter

Create Opportunities to Share

- Start a dissertation workshop
- Solicit your friends for feedback (and return the favor)
- Organize WIP panel at a conference

Questions?

Contact Us

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