

# Hunter Student Research Conference

## Works in Progress & Presentation Tips

The Office of Graduate and Post-doctoral Affairs and PhD Plus program are excited to support the students presenting at the 2023 Hunter Student Research Conference (HSRC). Works in Progress presentations are an excellent opportunity to share your ideas, experiences, and research with the community and receive supportive and constructive feedback. This document highlights some important considerations and best practices to help ensure your presentation communicates your ideas and achievements while engaging the diverse audience attending the event.

### EVENT OVERVIEW

For over a decade, the HSRC has provided an opportunity for students to showcase their innovative research. Renamed in 2020, the conference honors the barrier-breaking alumna, Dr. Louise Stokes Hunter, Education '53. Dr. Hunter was the first Black woman to graduate from UVA. The event includes poster sessions, paper sessions, workshops, panels, and a keynote speaker. It is organized for students mostly by students (with the support of a faculty liaison and staff in the Dean's Office).

This section is based on the information included on the research submission portal in late November 2022. We encourage you to follow the format outlined on the [conference website](#) and [submission portal](#) while thinking of creative ways to share your research and perspective, leverage your creativity, and incorporate “you” into your presentation.

#### *Presentation Overview*

- Presentations can include Works in Progress that is related to inquiry and/or research findings and results.
- Students must indicate a preference for any or all of the three presentation formats: empirical, theoretical, and literature reviews.
- The audience will include undergraduate- and graduate-level students from other academic disciplines, university deans, faculty members, and program directors across the Grounds.

#### *Room Layout & Format*

- The 2023 HSRC will take place at UVA's School of Education and Human Development in Bavaro and Ridley Hall.
- Presentations will be assigned and communicated by the HRSC planning committee.
- Once you receive confirmation, we recommend visiting the room you will be presenting in to get familiar with the layout, location of the podium, screen(s), etc.
- We encourage you to review your presentation in advance on the computer that will be used during the event and carefully check the *format*, *font*, and *animations*.

### PLANNING AN ENGAGING PRESENTATION

As you begin to outline and plan your presentation, we have a few suggestions to keep in mind:

- Identify your key message—something you want the audience to remember.
- Tell a story. Have a start, middle, and end.
- Consider ways to engage your audience. Can you ask them a question or include a captivating photo or image of something the audience may be familiar with early on in your presentation?
- Be authentic. Consider leveraging your strengths (e.g., performing arts, artistic talent, story-telling, design skills).
- Don't wait until the last day. Rehearse and practice the timing of your presentation.

## TIPS & TRICKS

We understand it is sometimes difficult to know where to begin and what information is worth including. You are *not* expected to be an expert in all fields of intellectual thought overnight! Nonetheless, each student should work closely with their advisor and/or other mentors to prepare and reflect on answers to anticipated and commonly asked questions. This is particularly true for Works in Progress, where your audience may ask questions about the design of your project/study, as well as suggest alternative approaches and considerations that could strengthen your research.

### *Here are some tips on how to get started.*

- Meet with your advisor to discuss your goals and any background information or initial results you *could* use, and reflect on the broader impacts and significance of your work.
  - Ask what the audience might know already versus what one (or two) things (background information, terms, etc.) you may need to explain or define so they can understand your research.
  - Also, discuss alternative research approaches the audience may suggest and the pros and cons of each.
- Consider multiple ways to tell the story of your research. Specifically, reflect on different ways you could “set up” the story you want to tell using the first two slides.
- Create a script and include prompts (words, a familiar photo, etc.) on each slide to trigger what you want to say.
- Avoid jargon (written and verbal) and terms and acronyms specific to your discipline.

### *Things to consider as you start to refine your presentation.*

- Check your presentation for accessibility (contrasting colors, text size, font type, and animations).
- Simplify and refine your graphs and figures.
  - Ensure that you have included all labels (i.e., both x- and y-axis) and make the font large enough to read.
  - Remove gridlines and change the standard colors on any Excel graphs.
  - Only include the required amount of detail you need to tell your story.
  - Remember to interpret any data and initial results in plain terms and clearly state the takeaway(s).
- Limit animations and only use them when it is essential to help guide the audience’s attention.
- Do not use slide transitions. They distract the audience’s attention away from what you are presenting.

## TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Nov. 21	Conference Submission Open
Dec. 1	Submitting a Works in Progress Workshop – Presented by PhD+ (Bavaro 318A)
Jan. (TBA)	Positionality Workshop with Walt Heinecke
Jan. 31	Conference Submissions Deadline
Feb. (TBA)	Navigating Conferences Workshop
Mar. 17	2023 Conference Day

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### *HRSC Resources*

- [Hunter Conference Submission Portal](#)
- [School of Education and Human Development Webpage](#)

### *Helpful Videos*

- [TED's Secret to Great Public Speaking](#)
- [TED Speaker Guidance and Performers](#)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about the PhD+ support for participating students, we welcome you to contact us.

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