

Traditional Research Paper Sessions

Professional, Engaging & Accessible Scholarly Presentations

Overview & Rationale

Traditional Research Paper Sessions are a cornerstone of the AEJMC Annual Conference. These sessions provide a structured environment for scholars to present completed research, receive feedback, and engage in meaningful scholarly dialogue.

This format emphasizes:

- Clear and thorough presentation of research
- Constructive feedback from discussants
- Interactive Q&A with attendees
- Scholarly exchange within a shared thematic session

Standard Session Format (75 Minutes)

While formats may vary slightly by division or group, most sessions follow this general structure:

Introductions (5 minutes)

- Session Chair:
 - Welcomes attendees
 - Introduces presenters and discussant
 - Reviews session structure and timing

Paper Presentations (10–12 minutes each)

- Presenters deliver a focused summary of their research, including:
 - Research purpose and significance
 - Theoretical framework
 - Methodology
 - Key findings
 - Contributions to the field

Important:

- Time limits are strictly enforced
- Presenters should rehearse to stay within the allotted time
- Avoid reading directly from the paper

Discussant Remarks (10–15 minutes total)

- The discussant provides:
 - Constructive feedback across papers
 - Thematic insights and connections
 - Questions for presenters to consider

Audience Q&A (10–15 minutes)

- Open discussion with attendees
- Presenters respond to questions and engage in dialogue

Presentation Best Practices

To ensure an effective session:

- Focus on **key contributions**, not every detail
- Use **clear structure and signposting**
- Limit slides (if used) to essential information
- Practice timing in advance
- Coordinate with co-authors if applicable

Presenter Accessibility Guidelines

AEJMC is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible conference experience. Presenters are expected to incorporate the following practices:

Accessible Verbal Delivery

- Speak clearly and at a moderate pace
- Use plain language when possible; define key terms
- Avoid reading directly from slides or notes
- Use microphones when available

Accessible Visual Materials (Slides)

If using slides, ensure:

- Minimum **18–24 pt font size**
- High contrast (e.g., dark text on light background)
- Limited text per slide
- Descriptive titles for clarity
- Images include **verbal descriptions** during presentation

Inclusive Audience Engagement

- Repeat or paraphrase audience questions before answering
- Face the audience when speaking
- Allow time for processing and follow-up
- Be mindful of diverse communication styles

4. Accessible Handouts & Materials (Optional but Encouraged)

- Provide a summary handout if appropriate
- Use readable fonts and clear formatting
- Include a **QR code or link** to full paper or materials
- Ensure digital materials are accessible (e.g., readable PDFs)

5. Time & Cognitive Accessibility

- Respect time limits to reduce cognitive overload
- Keep presentations focused and organized
- Avoid overly dense slides or rapid delivery

Chair & Discussant Responsibilities

Session Chair

- Keep the session on time
- Support smooth transitions
- Reinforce inclusive participation
- Assist with accessibility needs as they arise

Discussant

- Provide balanced, respectful feedback
- Highlight strengths and contributions
- Offer constructive suggestions
- Support an inclusive and collegial tone