

From Proposal to Presentation at AAAL

Dr. Ruth Harman
Language and Literacy Education
University of Georgia

Moving from Paper to Presentation

- Make sure to write up a paper supporting your research with rich literature review before beginning to prepare your presentation (to be shared with discussant)
- Decide on how interactive your session will be. In paper presentations you only have 20 minutes, including audience interaction. Round table and poster presentations can be more open to dialogic formats

Preparing the visual display

- Read your research paper carefully and highlight key elements.
- Get to your basic storyline: what is the main purpose of this 20 minute talk? A new theoretical contribution? Exciting findings from study? A lit review? Create a short outline of the paper
- Once you know your thread, begin sculpting your visual presentation to key 10-11 slides and most pertinent evidence that supports your key ideas or findings
- Remember: **it is an applied linguistics conference** so make sure that your work focuses on the linguistic and/ or semiotic elements in your work.

Using Multimodal Resources

- Smile and breathe in welcoming your audience: it fosters a good relationship from the beginning (and can help with nerves 😊)
- Keep the multimodal components simple and accessible to a wide range of audience members (if you are showing a video clip make sure you have the time to elaborate)
- Talk about what you are showing and don't put too much text on a slide (use your handout to elaborate on key elements)

Reading/ Sharing your written paper

- Your main objective in sharing your work at a conference is to interact with scholars from your area of interest
- Instead of reading off your paper and/or your slide notes, make sure to signal to audience that you are still thinking through this work
- Use cues such as “I am still thinking about these findings” to engage audience in thinking with you

After the presentation

- You may feel exhausted or shy after your presentation. Take a deep breath and then engage in the foyer with audience participants who seem invested in your approach. Don't just walk away!!
- Follow up with researchers who are doing similar work or whose work inspires yours!
- Revisit your paper and use the conference input to reshape certain elements

ENJOY

