

Student Paper Award Guidelines

PAS Student Paper Award Description

- The Student Paper Award encourages and recognizes students who present and publish professional quality papers at the annual Plains Conference.
- All students attending the Plains Conference are invited to compete for this annual award. Undergraduate and graduate students will be evaluated separately.
- The award is a cash payment of \$300 to undergraduates and \$400 to graduate students with the potential for invitation to submit the paper for publication in Plains Anthropologist in some cases.
- The winner(s) will be announced at the conference banquet, to which all competition participants will receive one complimentary ticket. Please note that only the lead/lead/principal author on multi-authored papers will receive a complimentary banquet ticket.
 - Please note that the Student Paper Awards Committee reserves the right to make no award or multiple awards depending on the quality of papers submitted for the competition.
 - The committee's decision is final.

Who can apply:

- Enrolled as a full or part-time student, either undergraduate or graduate.
- Please review the PAS Guidelines for Undergraduate or Graduate Student Poster and Paper Competition (<https://plainsanthropologicalsociety.org/grants/student-poster>) rules to learn more about competition policies regarding single versus multi-authored works and about submitting a paper co-authored with other students or professional collaborators.
- Must indicate intent to participate in the competition when submitting abstract to the conference program organizer.
- Must present paper in the student paper session. Papers may be presented in an organized session, but they also must be given during the student paper session to be eligible.

Submission materials required

- Students must submit an abstract to the Plains Anthropological Society Conference
 - Students will have 20 minutes for the oral presentation. You are encouraged to use audiovisual materials (e.g. PowerPoint presentation), but you must give a spoken presentation.
- Students will need to turn in a full draft of their paper in advance of the conference. The PAS Student Paper Competition website will be updated with deadlines closer to the start of the conference. But please note, normally students are expected to turn in their paper at least one full week before the start of the conference.
- The paper needs to be a full and complete draft with in-text citations. The paper must be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and 12-pt font. Please do not submit raw data unless they are to be presented as part of the paper itself.

- The oral presentation should be a condensed summary of the more detailed written paper.
- There is no page limit on the written version of the paper, but please do not include material that is not part of the subject you will be presenting at the conference--an entire chapter of your thesis, for example.
- About 4,000 to 5,000 words is a good length to aim for. The written paper should follow stylistic guidelines for Plains Anthropologist manuscripts
- If this is a multi-authored paper, include a detailed explanation of your contributions after the title page.
- The student must submit a digital copy of this paper to Sarah Trabert, the PAS Student Paper Competition Committee Chair, by the deadline posted on the PAS website. You are not required to submit your presentation slides. Her email address is: strabert@ou.edu
- The student must have a faculty or supervisory sponsor review the paper before the student submits it to the Student Paper Award Committee. The faculty/supervisory sponsor must send an email to Sarah Trabert at the time of paper submission saying that they read and approved the paper being submitted.

Student Paper Award Evaluation Matrix

Research: (maximum of 100 points/10 points for each aspect)

- Research question shows originality and thought
- Project is placed into a context of previous research
- Research methods are appropriate, ethical, and logical
- Data gathering identifies all variables and minimizes bias
- Data are accurately gathered, recorded, and summarized
- Data set is appropriate to the question
- Conclusions are logical and well supported by the data
- Project leads to recommendations for future research
- Implications of the project are clearly identified and logical
- Research contributes to Plains anthropology

Written Paper: (50 points/10 points each)

- Paper is written in article format (not a dissertation chapter or contract report)
- Paper is clear, concise, and original
- Paper clearly explains each of the research aspects listed above:
 - Question, Research Context, Methods, Results, and Conclusions
- Paper is well organized and logical
- References are complete, correct, and relevant

Presentation: (50 points)

- Presentation is well rehearsed
- Speaker is thoroughly familiar with the material
- Speaks audibly, maintains eye contact with audience, and conveys enthusiasm
- Audiovisual aids are easy to see, relevant, and appropriate in number (20 points)

Tips for Success

1. Ask a colleague or professor to read your paper and listen to your presentation. Try to incorporate their suggestions into your final product.
2. Your written paper and presentation should not be exactly the same. The presentation must “cut to the chase” or you will run out of time. The written paper is the place for providing the details of your data.
3. Carefully proofread your paper and check the bibliography. Don’t try to sound “overly academic” by using jargon, unclear language, or long sentences. Just express your ideas simply and clearly. Remember that all sorts of Plains anthropologists must be able to understand your ideas.
4. Time your presentation. Nothing is more disastrous than finding that you are only halfway through your presentation when your time is up. Practice what you will say. Change any words or phrases that you tend to trip over.
5. Don’t overdo the number of PowerPoint slides. A few eye-catching slides are more effective than a mind-numbing race through dozens of images. Remember that different people respond best to different kinds of information. Let your visuals (or audios) reinforce what you are saying. A simple graph is worth 1000 words. Complicated graphs, charts, and tables do not work well. Especially if they are too small for the audience to see. Don’t copy these out of your written paper but make new ones for your talk. Try to keep what is on the screen related to what you are saying. If you proceed to another topic, then proceed to another visual.
6. If you are nervous, remember that everyone in the room has felt the same way, especially during their first few presentations. People attend your talk because they are interested in what you have to say. You won’t find a friendlier audience anywhere!
7. Visit the room before your session begins so you can get a feel for the podium, screen, lights, etc. Recruit some friends to sit in the audience so you can practice making eye contact.

Helpful links:

- Tips for Presenting Your Research at Conferences
(https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-information-science-and-technology/_files/docs/round-tables/tips-for-academic-presentations-mdavidson.pdf)

- How to Convert your Paper into a Presentation
(<https://twp.duke.edu/sites/twp.duke.edu/files/file-attachments/paper-to-talk.original.pdf>)
- How to Create a Presentation using PowerPoint (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/create-a-presentation-in-powerpoint-422250f8-5721-4cea-92cc-202fa7b89617>)
- Creating Better Conference Slides and Presentations
(<https://stephaniewalter.design/blog/create-better-conference-presentations-slides/>)