



2026 CCCC Annual Convention Proposals How to Get Started

CCCC Proposal Review: How will proposals be evaluated?

- Proposals progress through three stages of review:
 - In stage one, colleagues at all ranks from across the field review proposals using the rubric that was distributed with the call for proposals. Submitters can use the rubric to evaluate drafts and as a heuristic when thinking about how to explain what will be presented.
 - In stage two, small teams of invited reviewers, approximately three members per team, will review proposals using the rubric, the aggregated scores from stage one review, and focus in a specific topic area(s).
 - In stage three, the program chair makes the final decision on invitations. The program chair does not review every proposal recommended for acceptance in stage two review; rather, they look at the raw review data and the occasional proposal to make sure this reflects the standards that have been shared with the field.
- What does this mean for the proposer?
 - Know that proposals aren't read just once. They are read multiple times and from multiple perspectives.
 - When writing a proposal, be
 - succinct,
 - concise, and
 - clear, so that different audiences can understand what will be presented in the proposed session.

CCCC Proposal Writing: What should you write about?

- Writing about any particular topic will not increase your chances of acceptance to the CCCC program.
- The most popular topics tend to get a lot of submissions, so many proposals on the most popular topics cannot be accepted.
- Focus your proposal on what you know, what you are most interested in, and what you want to spend time on in your presentation.
- Consider how your topic is of interest to CCCC members. Ensure it is relevant and timely.
- Focus on what angle or argument you plan to take on a particular topic and what you personally bring to that topic.

CCCC Proposal Writing: You have a topic, now what?

- Decide whether to propose a panel proposal or an individual proposal.
 - More presenters are typically accepted through panel proposals, which have three or more presenters. Panel proposals receive a 75-minute presentation slot. Individual proposals receive a 30-minute presentation slot. The number of panels and individual proposals accepted is proportionate based on the number of submissions for each type of session.
 - Do you know anyone who may be interested in working on your proposal topic? A good panel proposal makes it clear how the conversation will develop between the presenters.
- Decide which cluster you will select for your proposal—and choose carefully.
 - You will select a cluster when submitting your proposal, and your proposal will be evaluated in that cluster.
 - For each cluster, reviewers accept a number of proposals that is proportionate to the number of submissions in that cluster. For example, if 5% of submissions are in the writing center cluster, 5% of total acceptances will be in this cluster.
 - Proposal reviewers focus on individual clusters in which they have particular interest and experience.
 - [Learn more](#) about the clusters.

CCCC Proposal Writing: What are some tips for the actual writing part?

- Keep it short. Review [word counts and other requirements](#) for the type of proposal you are submitting.
- [Review the rubric](#) before framing your proposal. Try to address any concerns or questions that members might have about your topic.
- Consider how you are obtaining the evidence used in your proposal. Is it anecdotal, observational data, or based on published research?
- Demonstrate how your argument fits into the larger conversation around your topic. Reviewers need to understand that you are filling a gap or advancing an ongoing conversation around your topic.
- Do not include parenthetical source citations in your proposal description. Citations must be brief due to word count limits. General comments are acceptable, such as “Scholars have discussed this . . .” or “This has been part of the 2,500-year history of rhetoric . . .”
- Be kind to your reviewers. Your writing should be clear enough that a reviewer feels good about parsing their way through your proposal, even when they have dozens more to go.
- Use reader-based prose:
 - Editing is crucial.
 - Provide necessary context and baseline knowledge for reviewers to understand and appreciate your argument.
 - Use clear signposting—small words or phrases that guide the reader through your argument.
 - Consider starting with a sentence about the problem you’re addressing.
 - For panel proposals, consider beginning with a sentence on the way that the presentations will collectively address the topic. Include a paragraph about each presentation, and end with a conclusion on what attendees can expect to learn and do during this session.