The Abstract Submission Process
A SAPA Professional Development Workshop

Thursday, September 20th
5:30-7:00 pm
Graham Hall, Room 187
Overview

• Opportunities for submission
  – Papers, posters, sessions
• Submission Process
  – How to write an abstract
• Q & A with Panel
Panelists

– Dr. Jonathan Justice, Associate Professor, Public Policy and Administration
– Nathan Roby, 2nd Year MPA
– Cimone Philpotts, 2nd Year MPA
– Jen Fuqua, Executive Director of New Visions for Public Affairs
Opportunities for Submission

• On Campus:
  – NVPA Journal and Symposium
  – Spring Grad Forum

• External Publications:
  – Practitioner Journals
  – Scholarly Journals

• Conferences:
  – Professional Associations
New Visions for Public Affairs

- Student-led organization in SPPA at UD
- Publishes annual scholarly journal
- Published 4th annual volume 2012
  - [http://www.sppa.udel.edu/nvpa/volume4](http://www.sppa.udel.edu/nvpa/volume4)
- Hosts annual research symposium
  - Featuring student articles and other works selected for publication
  - Keynote speaker in field of Public Administration
Spring Grad Forum

• 3rd Annual Graduate Forum will be this Spring

• 2nd Annual Forum:
  – 160 students registered
  – 27 departments represented

• Presentation formats:
  – Oral flash presentations projected (48)
  – Poster sessions (19)

2012 Keynote:
Roger Craig,
Jeopardy!
Tournament of Champions winner
UD Alum
Presentation Formats

• Papers
  – For publication in journals, etc.
  – For presentation at conferences

• Posters
  – For presentation at conferences

• Sessions
  – Designed for specific conferences
  – May include panel, roundtable, workshop, etc.
Conferences

American Society for Public Administration (ASPA):
  – Annual Conference
  – Regional Conferences (SECoPA, NECoPA)
  – International Conferences (Mexico, Thailand, India)

Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM)

The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

The Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)

Urban Affairs Association (UAA) – Due Oct 1 for April 3-6

American Planning Association (APA)

International Conference in Interpretive Policy Analysis
External Publications

• Practitioner Journals
  – ICMA’s Public Management Magazine
  – Public Finance and Management
  – Government Finance Review

• Scholarly Journals
  – PA Review
  – IBM Center for the Business of Government
## Elements of an Abstract

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Context:</strong></th>
<th>What is the broader context of your study?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problem statement:</strong></td>
<td>What problem are you trying to solve? Is there an information/research gap? What is the scope of your work? Research questions?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Motivation:</strong></td>
<td>Why do we care about the problem and the results? Who will benefit from the findings, and why?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Methodology:</strong></td>
<td>How did you go about solving or making progress on the problem? What was the extent of your work? What important variables did you control, ignore, or measure?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Results:</strong></td>
<td>What are your Research findings?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusions:</strong></td>
<td>What are the (policy) implications of your findings? Are your results generalizable, or specific to a particular case?</td>
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Practice

- NVPA Writing Workshops
- Submit short pieces (PA Times, News Journal Op Ed, Professional Newsletters, SAPA Committee, Other School Journals)
- Come to the 2012–2013 lunchtime School of Public Policy and Administration Research Seminar series! (justice@udel.edu for more info)
Funding

• Office of Graduate and Professional Education
  – Maximum of $500
  – Focused on travel, does not cover meals
• SPPA
  – Speak with Diana Simmons
• SPPA’s affiliated research centers
  – Diana will cycle forms through your center
Q&A with Panelists

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