**AERA Proposal and Other Advice**

**Professor Curtis J. Bonk**

**Indiana University**

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**AERA Paper/Roundtable/Poster Proposal Advice:**

1. **Follow Directions:** Submit completed proposals, not partial or hopeful ones.
2. **Plan Ahead:** Create a writing plan or deadline; don’t wait until the last minute.
3. **Don’t Wing it:** Ask for sample proposals; ask for feedback.
4. **Meet Word Limits:** Hide extra stuff in tables, charts, figures, and references.
5. **Find a Fit:** Target SIGS over divisions; main thing is to get accepted, not prestige.
6. **Form a Team:** It is good to be apprenticed by experts and subdivide the work.
7. **Frame Proposal:** Indicate how research drives theory; don’t get bogged down in details.
8. **Capture the Reader:** Include the purpose or rationale; offer insightful implications.
9. **Sound like an Expert/Scholar:** Put current references, trends, and data in lit review.
10. **Don’t Overwhelm Reader:** Title in 15 words or less, simple to understand visuals.
11. **Report Your Data:** Collected data is vital, not just hypothesized or future data.
12. **Give It Some Polish:** Reread the proposal several times; make the format attractive.
13. **Get More Eyeballs:** Ask for feedback from friends and colleagues.
14. **Be Creative:** Think carefully about educational significance and future studies.
15. **Reconnect to Paper Themes/Titles:** Remind reader of key themes/title at proposal end.

**AERA Symposium Proposal Advice:**

1. **Organize Symposium:** There are many roles with symposia; get well known discussant.
2. **Symposia Recruitment:** Think carefully about whom you know and invite the best.
3. **Data Over Big Names:** Having data and a catchy title is more important than big names.

**Revision and Completion Advice:**

1. **Don’t Bounce from Conference to Conf:** Submit for publication before conference.
2. **Address the Feedback:** Other readers will have similar concerns.
3. **Make Your Final Paper Accessible:** Post paper to a website for downloading.
4. **Resubmit Next Year:** If rejected, try again. Persistence and grit wins the day.
5. **Share:** Always share final paper or drafts with others—adds to reputation as a scholar.

**Other Ways to Find Success at AERA:**

1. **Know the Audience:** Join 2-3 SIGs/divisions; volunteer review papers, discussant, etc.
2. **Network:** Attend 1-2 business meetings to meet people; attend major talks.
3. **Be Strategic:** Treat the conference like a graduate class you never had.
4. **Practice Your Talk:** It takes effort to be a high quality speaker. Practice with others.
5. **Ok to Jump on the Bandwagon:** Reviewers tend to favor current topics.
6. **Arrange Meetings:** Network, network, network during the conference.
7. **Collaborate:** People who work in teams have greater opportunities to find success.
8. **Find some Rituals:** Find events, activities, etc., that you enjoy and do them each year.
9. **Don’t Go Every Year:** AERA is great, but you need to take a break from it at times.
10. **Forgive & Forget:** Sometimes you just can’t figure out why you were rejected. Move on.