

## Presenting Your Research at the Chiang Research Festival...

In “Why It’s Important for You to Present Your Data at Scientific Conferences,” Kelly Dunn (2007) encourages her cohorts to present at regional and national conventions.<sup>1</sup> Although she is addressing graduate students affiliated with the American Psychological Association, her argument holds true for undergraduates as well. Below are excerpts from the five reasons she gives for presenting data.



1. **Contribute to and learn about the most recent advances in YOUR field.** Conference presentations allow you to present your data during many stages of development, (e.g., preliminary findings, recently collected data, or data that is waiting to be published). This will allow you to present your most up-to-date findings and receive feedback from colleagues, which will help you when you ultimately write up your study.
2. **Advocate for your discipline.** ...Representing your field of interest allows researchers in other disciplines, policy-makers, and the public to become aware of the innovative research being generated in your particular subfield. As scientists, it is important that we share our research findings with people outside our specific discipline to increase the visibility of our research and provide interested individuals with more information.
3. **Learn how to talk about your data.** Conferences provide a way to practice your presentation skills and can help you develop the expertise needed to discuss your research in a clear and meaningful way. Learning how to answer specific questions and present your data to a range of individuals (who may or may not be familiar with your field of research) will help you in other endeavors, including future conference presentations, masters or dissertation defenses, and classroom teaching.
4. **Contribute to your overall research profile.** When on the job market, graduate students often compete against other students for ideal jobs or post-doctoral positions. A history of conference presentations will show potential employers that you regularly disseminate your research finding to colleagues as well as keep up-to-date on the cutting-edge research of the field.
5. **Meet other researchers in your field.** ...The presentations that you give and attend are likely to be frequented by researchers with similar interests, giving you the opportunity to discuss your research and learn valuable information from people working with similar techniques, populations, or statistics. Establishing contacts with other scientists will foster friendships with motivated researchers who can be resources for you at any stage of your career.

As you become more active in your discipline, you will discover forums in which to present your work, but students will have an opportunity to jumpstart the process by sharing their CWR4B research at the **College Writing Programs' Chiang Research Festival**.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Dunn, Kelly (2007). “Why It’s Important for You to Present You Data at Scientific Conferences.” Available online at < <http://www.apa.org/science/about/psa/2007/11/student-council-1.aspx>>, last accessed October 15, 2017.