

How to Write a Winning Best Paper

ASEE MIND

Webinar Series 2016

Friday, September 30, 2016

ASEE MIND Webinar Series



Host & Moderator:

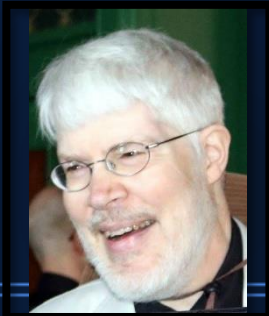
Shawna Fletcher,

Director WE Program, Texas A&M University
ASEE MIND Member at Large



Presenters:

Dr. Walter Lee, Virginia Tech
ASEE MIND Member at Large



Donald Newsom, Argonne National Laboratory
ASEE MIND Awards Chair



- About WEPAN www.wepan.org
- **Core Values: Knowledge, Collaboration, Inclusion and Leadership**
- **1000 members from 200 engineering schools, corporations, government, non-profits**
- **WEPAN Knowledge Center**

A screenshot of the WEPAN Knowledge Center website homepage. The top navigation bar includes links for "FAQs | About Us | Media Center | Sign In". The main header features the WEPAN logo and the text "Respected. Relevant. Reliable." followed by a description: "The WEPAN Knowledge Center is your online resource for research, best practices, and professional communities dedicated to advancing all women in engineering." Below this is a red banner with the text "Enter the Professional Community >". The main content area is divided into three sections: a search bar with a "Search..." input field and "Advanced Search >" link; a photo of a diverse group of smiling professionals; and a "What's New in the WEPAN Knowledge Center" section listing articles like "Making Machines Talk: Formulating Research Questions" and "HIV Microbicides: Rethinking Research Priorities and Outcomes" with a "... more" link.

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ASEE/MIND Paper Review Process

- All submissions receive peer reviews; use of the evaluation rubric is recommended, but not formally required; reviewers nominate Best Papers for further review.
- Papers receiving the most nominations undergo rubric-based reviews by the MIND Program Chair, Division Chair, and Awards Chair.
- MIND Best Paper also becomes our nominee for Best Diversity Paper and PIC IV Best Paper.

Best Paper review comprises content, focus, and language

- Content includes five criteria:
 - Originality
 - Research Approach
 - Results
 - Scholarship
 - Relevance

Best Paper review comprises content, focus, and language

- Focus includes three criteria:
 - Goals
 - Order
 - Conclusions

Best Paper review comprises content, focus, and language

- Language includes two criteria:
 - Style
 - Mechanics

Content: Originality

- Does the content contain original treatment of, or new perspective on, the topic?
 - Highly original, 3 pts
 - Some originality, 2 pts
 - Moderately original, 1 pt
 - Minimal originality, 0 pts

Content: Research Approach

- How advanced is the research approach? Is it appropriate for the purpose of the paper? Is it consistent with the perspective (quantitative, qualitative, mixed, or more specific)?
 - Novel &/or sophisticated, appropriate, and consistent, 3 pts
 - Advanced, appropriate, and consistent, 2 pts
 - Basic, but appropriate and consistent, 1 pt
 - Inadequate or not appropriate, 0 pts

Content: Results

- Are data collection and assessment results clear and logical, supporting the goals of the paper?
 - Very clear and logical, strongly supporting the goals, 3 pts
 - Clear and logical, supporting the goals, 2 pts
 - Somewhat clear and logical, moderately supporting the goals, 1 pt
 - Needing improvement, 0 pts

Content: Scholarship

- Does the content review and build on appropriate prior work?
 - To a significant extent, 3 pts
 - To a moderate extent, 2 pts
 - To a limited extent, 1 pt
 - No, 0 pts

Content: Relevance

- How significantly does the paper contribute to the field of engineering education?
 - Highly significant contribution, 3 pts
 - Significant contribution, 2 pts
 - Moderate contribution, 1 pt
 - Minimal contribution, 0 pts

Focus: Goals

- How well are the goals developed and stated?
 - Strongly developed and explicitly stated, 3 pts
 - Developed and explicitly stated, 2 pts
 - Not fully developed &/or stated, 1 pt
 - Not developed &/or stated, 0 pts

Focus: Order

- Is the order in which ideas are presented clear, logical, and effective?
 - Explicitly and consistently so, 3 pts
 - Reasonably so, but could be improved, 2 pts
 - The order is occasionally confusing, 1 pt
 - Little apparent structure to the flow of ideas, causing confusion, 0 pts

Focus: Conclusions

- How well are the conclusions formulated and supported by the data?
 - Very well formulated and strongly supported, 3 pts
 - Well formulated and supported, 2 pts
 - Moderately effective and only partially supported, 1 pt
 - Minimally effective and not apparently supported, 0 pts

Language: Style

- Is the paper clear, concise, consistent, and understandable?
 - Yes to all counts, and a pleasure to read, 3 pts
 - Mostly understandable, with occasional inconsistencies, 2 pts
 - Multiple sections are difficult to read or understand; paper could be better structured or more clearly explained, 1 pt
 - Difficult to read or understand due to sentence or paragraph structure, word choices, lack of explanations, etc., 0 pts

Language: Mechanics

- Are there grammar or spelling errors?
 - Writing is near perfect, little or no errors, 3 pts
 - Minor errors are present, but do not detract from the content, 2 pts
 - Some errors are significant and detract from the content, 1 pt
 - Pervasive errors distort meaning and make reading difficult, 0 pts

Get your very own copy of the evaluation rubric!

- <https://www.asee.org/documents/conferences/annual/2016/Rubric.pdf>
- Rate your own paper before you submit it, and boost your chances of being a Best Paper winner!



BEST PAPER TIPS

Dr. Walter Lee

Content

Language

Focus

1. Select a good topic (answer these questions before writing)

- Is this topic of interest to members of MIND?
- What information will my audience want from me?

2. Plainly state the purpose

- Does my title accurately reflect what I'm writing about?
- Do I explicitly state the purpose of my paper?

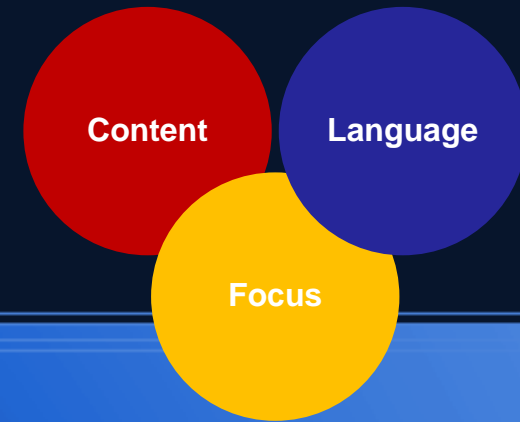
3. Include useful information (note: conference papers short)

- Do I sufficiently discuss my research or assessment process?
- What other details will my audience want?



BEST PAPER TIPS

Dr. Walter Lee



4. Summarize your results/contributions

- Does my work appropriately build on existing literature?
- Do my results have clear implications for other MIND members?

5. Make your paper look “award winning”

- Does my paper look good visually?
- Is my paper free of grammatical errors?

Useful resource: Standards for Reporting on Empirical Social Science Resource in AERA Publications:

<http://edr.sagepub.com/content/35/6/33.full.pdf+html>

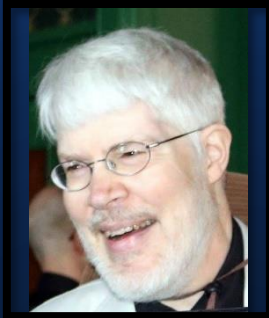


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Thank You for Attending. We Hope You Enjoyed the Webinar!

**Links to the PowerPoint and recorded webinar posted at
www.wepan.org – please share with colleagues!**

Survey following the webinar – please respond!

Thank you WEPAN!

Thank you speakers – Don Newsom and Walter Lee

Thank you for attending today!