

Attending and Getting Involved at CCCC 2024

SOME TIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

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This document is the second of two guides we're working on for graduate students, especially those new to the [Conference on College Composition and Communication \(CCCC\)](#). The first guide is titled [Getting Ready for CCCC 2024](#).

As we prepare for the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Convention in Spokane, Washington, in 2024, we want to recognize our joint responsibility in creating an inclusive and encouraging atmosphere. To that end, we collaborated with the leadership team of the CCCC Graduate Student Standing Group to craft this document, aimed at supporting graduate students. We thank Kayla Fettig, Anuj Gupta, Charlie McMartin, and Holly Anderson, for drawing our attention to some of the complexities and challenges for graduate students navigating large academic conferences like CCCC in current times. We also thank the CCCC Chair Frankie Condon for offering helpful feedback as we developed this document.

In this document, we aim to offer some tips and suggestions tailored for graduate students attending the 2024 CCCC Convention in Spokane, Washington. However, it's important to note that these suggestions are not prescriptive. We acknowledge that each individual's circumstances vary, and we hope that the document acknowledges the subtleties and difficulties we might all face while navigating a sizable academic conference. Our goal isn't just to ease your experience at the convention but also to highlight the importance of the connections we form here. Viewing this space not merely as a brief encounter but as a cornerstone for lasting professional relationships, we aspire to nurture a community where collegiality thrives and where every interaction contributes to the sustainability of our academic careers.

Please don't hesitate to email us at ra00060@mix.wvu.edu and jennifer.sano-franchini@mail.wvu.edu if you have any questions or suggestions for improving this resource.

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Getting Ready for Your Presentation

We encourage all presenters to review the [CCCC 2024 Accessibility Guide](#) section titled “Co-Creating a Culture of Access: A Primer” to ensure that your presentation allows all attendees to fully engage with your content. Below we offer some additional tips that may help as you are preparing your presentation for CCCC 2024.

Getting Started

Some presenters find it helpful to create slides first as a way of outlining their presentation before developing their script, while others prefer the opposite. Additionally, some people prefer to read their papers during presentations, while others prefer to speak extemporaneously. As you develop your presentation, revisiting your initial proposal can help you remember the key points you want to include. You don't necessarily have to cover everything you proposed, but it can act as a useful reference point.

To ensure accessibility, we highly recommend getting started early. This way you will have enough time to print access copies of your talk; check the pronunciation of unfamiliar names, places, and words; incorporate accessible design principles into your slides and handouts if you choose to use them; and do access checks of your materials. Note that the [CCCC 2024 Accessibility Guide](#) offers helpful suggestions for creating accessible slides.

Defining Your Purpose

When defining your presentation's purpose, you might consider whether you are aiming to showcase your research findings, spark meaningful discussions, and/or seek feedback on a work-in-progress. As you think through this question, reflect on the insights, knowledge, or unique perspectives your presentation brings to the table and highlight them in your presentation and delivery.

Understanding Your Audience

Your audience may be quite diverse—ranging from enthusiastic fellow graduate students keen on engaging with your research to seasoned scholars with extensive knowledge in the field. Take a moment to ponder their expectations, interests, and familiarity with your topic. It could be helpful to tailor your content to fit these different groups to make sure you keep everyone engaged no matter their level of expertise or interest.

Considering Your Presentation Style

When preparing for your presentation, it's worth considering the presentation style that best aligns with your goals and will help you connect with your audience. Some presenters may opt for reading their papers, while others may choose to use slides or engage in interactive discussions to encourage engagement and dialogue. All approaches are acceptable and there isn't a single correct method. When making this decision, you might want to first assess the nature of your content and what approach makes you feel most confident and comfortable.

Here is what some leaders of the CCCC Graduate Student Standing Group had to say about preparing presentations:



Edit, Edit, Edit: Don't get lost in the weeds. Everyone is super busy at a conference and you don't have enough time to present your whole paper. So present the big picture that should answer these questions: What is your research question? Why is it important? What are you doing to answer that question? What answers have you found? What are your big takeaways from this process?

Decompress, Decompress, Decompress: It can seem very anxiogenic to present at a big conference like CCCC especially when you are doing it for the first time. However, most sessions happen in small rooms with maybe 5-10 attendees, if you are lucky. Decompress your imagination of how big of an event your presentation is.

Embrace messiness: Thankfully, in writing studies, we are all about the process. You don't have to present complete and final research. It's okay to share things even when they are messy. Just present them as such—i.e. foreground how this is work in progress and you are seeking feedback.

— Anuj Gupta, PhD Student, University of Arizona



When it comes to presenting, depending on the scope and topic, it is hard for one to prepare, especially as a grad student who has worked on a project so meaningful to them that they want to share everything they can. Respect the given time frame, present in a linear fashion, and keep things accessible for those with disabilities. Handouts are often appreciated when slides are not available or lack in-depth details, but remember who your audience is. Sometimes, we forget or are nervous (maybe even terrified) to present, but if your audience is there, show them your gratitude by looking at them and ending your presentation with comments like, "I look forward to hearing your questions and feedback on my presentation; thank you for your time." People could attend countless presentations, workshops, and panels, and they picked yours, so a little nod of appreciation goes a long way, especially if you're a graduate student competing against top scholars in specific fields.

— Kayla Urban Fettig, PhD Student, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



My advice for crafting your presentation is to consider your audience. Just like you, they will be overwhelmed with information and conversations. Reading a paper may be the traditional approach to conference presentations, but it will not actively engage attendees in critical conversation about your research. Script some sections of your presentation that need precise framing or definitions, and include sections where you speak conversationally about your research question or findings. Also, if you use slides, do not depend on long quotations or detailed data visualizations. Find illustrative images and data visualization that will allow your colleagues to engage with the key components of your presentation. Also, recognize that many of your colleagues will return home from the conference and pull out all their notes and flyers from the conference, and unless they have something to take away from your presentation, they will probably forget it. Think about the concrete takeaways your colleagues should remember from your presentation. What resources can they consult from your presentation that will help them apply your research to their work? I recommend creating digital handouts with clear takeaways and links to helpful resources for your presentation.

— Charles McMartin, PhD Student, University of Arizona

What to Wear

While there's no definitive dress code for the conference, many attendees lean toward a business casual approach, while others prefer to use their clothing as a way to express themselves. Generally, many people wear attire that strikes a balance between looking professional and feeling confident and comfortable. Bringing layers is advisable as conference venues might vary in temperature. And, of course, consider comfortable footwear, especially if you anticipate doing some walking. In short, when dressing for a conference, you might want to think of it like selecting your teaching attire.

Attending the Conference

Pace Yourself

CCCC provides a bounty of interesting, engaging, and helpful sessions on a wide range of topics related to teaching and research in rhetoric and composition. While attending conference sessions is valuable, some of the most impactful conversations often happen outside these formal settings. Therefore, you might want to strike a balance by exploring sessions that resonate with your interests and goals without overwhelming yourself with too many.

“Remember you can’t attend everything and be everywhere; don’t bother trying. Take breaks, eat, relax when you can, and enjoy what you can when you can. Every day will be different, and that’s the great thing about this conference: the multiple experiences you can have over the course of a few days, but don’t push yourself to do everything; you’ll regret not taking care of yourself before you ever regret missing a presentation, workshop, or panel.”

— Kayla Urban Fettig, PhD Student, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Selecting Sessions to Attend

When deciding which sessions to attend at a conference, it's often helpful to align your choices with your research interests. However, it can also be helpful to understand session attendance as a way to connect with and support fellow attendees. In addition to attending sessions featuring distinguished speakers, consider joining sessions where fellow graduate students are presenting their work. This can be a great way to meet and interact with peers and potentially establish academic partnerships and collaborations to support you during your graduate school journey. While it's tempting to prioritize meeting keynote and renowned speakers, don't underestimate the value of connecting with fellow graduate students who can grow alongside you.

Avoid overwhelming yourself by remembering that you don't need to attend a session at every scheduled time slot throughout the conference. Conference burnout is a real concern. Instead, focus on meaningful engagement rather than sheer quantity. Consider Dr. Erin Brock Carlson's advice of adopting a rule of three: attend at least one session related to your research, one that piques your curiosity on a new topic, and one about subjects you plan to explore in the future.

When searching for sessions, use a variety of keywords related to your specific interests. For example, if you teach and research the Appalachian region, a keyword search for terms like "Appalachia" can be more effective than broad terms like "writing program administration." Additionally, you can search for the names of scholars you've recently read to find relevant sessions.

Remember that it's perfectly acceptable to change your plan in the middle of the conference. If you find a session that resonates with you, don't hesitate to adjust your schedule to stay engaged. The key lesson here is to plan ahead but remain flexible and open to unexpected opportunities.

“The breadth of CCCC can be overwhelming. As an introvert, I recognized that I had a limited quota for social interaction. To conserve my energy, I made two lists that helped me prioritize my time: five presentations I wanted to see and five scholars I wanted to converse with. I recommend that first-time graduate students create similar lists. This will help mitigate feeling like you need to be constantly networking or that you're missing out on certain sessions. I noticed that advanced colleagues and presenters appreciated that I intentionally sought out their session and their research. I also recommend that first-time attendees skip sessions. Since I was still navigating teaching responsibilities and graduate seminars, I skipped about one session each day of the conference to work. Finally, I recommend that you try and get in touch with folks at the conference before it starts. When I saw that a prominent community writing scholar would be presenting their research, I asked to meet with them at the conference, and they responded immediately. After we had coffee at the conference, they connected me with an incredible network of community-engaged scholars.”

— Charles McMartin, PhD Student, University of Arizona

All-Attendee Events

CCCC offers a variety of all-attendee events that are designed to bring all convention attendees together in one place. During these events, attendees can make connections with peers, enjoy networking opportunities, come together around a shared message, and soak up the vibrant atmosphere of the convention. All are highly encouraged to attend!

Opening General Session

The Opening General Session kicks off the convention, welcomes everyone to the CCCC, and brings all attendees together around a message from the CCCC Chair. This year, Frankie Condon will be delivering the Chair's Address at the Opening General Session. These speeches from our organizational leaders often provide a picture of the state of the discipline and offer ways for us to collectively move forward. The Opening Session will take place on Thursday morning at 8:30–10:15 a.m..

Newcomers' Coffee Hour (it's not just for newcomers)

The Newcomers' Coffee Hour is a place where all attendees can come and welcome those new to the CCCC community. This year, it will take place before the Opening Session, on Thursday morning at 7:30–8:15 a.m..

Annual Business Meeting

The CCCC Annual Business Meeting, happening on Friday at 4:45–7:15 p.m., serves as a fantastic way to dive into CCCC's operations. It's a great chance to learn about what's happening, current challenges, and ongoing projects. In addition, having a quota—enough attendees presents for decisions to be made—is important, and your attendance can help make that happen!

Friday Keynote and Evening Event

Although the Friday Keynote and Evening Event are yet to be announced, these are two more opportunities to come together as a community and connect with others. The Friday Evening Event in particular will be a relaxed and informal event where people can socialize and unwind.

Connecting with Others at CCCC

“Reach out in whatever way you can if you are stuck, alone, and in need of support at such a large conference. Kind people will respond to your call.”

— Kayla Urban Fettig, PhD Student, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

As with any large academic conference, it is easy to feel overwhelmed or even like one is “lost at sea.” The sheer volume of information and the multitude of voices can be daunting, especially for newcomers, those not affiliated with a rhetoric and writing graduate program, or those attending solo. However, navigating the conference waters becomes much more manageable when you engage in purposeful networking, intentional connections, and collaborative opportunities. This is why so many opportunities to connect with others have been built into the CCCC Annual Convention. In this section we provide a variety of opportunities where you can meet people and get connected!

Networking is a core component of any academic conference. It’s how you can establish connections with colleagues who share your research interests and potentially collaborate on future projects. Specialized sessions, such as [Standing Group and Special Interest Group \(SIG\) Meetings and Sponsored Sessions](#), can be particularly fantastic places for focused discussions and networking opportunities tailored to your area of interest.

Before and during the Convention

- **Social Media:** Social media can be a powerful tool for networking and engagement before and during CCCC. Consider using the conference hashtag, #4C24, to share your thoughts, insights, and experiences. This way, you can easily connect with fellow participants who are using the same hashtag and engage in conversations about the conference.
- **Use the Graduate Student Standing Group’s Discord:** You can use the Discord platform to connect with fellow graduate students, stay informed about upcoming sessions and events during the conference for graduate students, and discover information about social activities, among other things.

At the Convention

- **Newcomers Events:** CCCC Newcomers’ Welcoming Committee typically hosts a number of events specifically geared toward those who are new to CCCC, whether as first-, second-, or third-time attendees. These events include the Newcomers’ Orientation, the Newcomers’ Coffee Hour, and the Think Tank for Newcomers, which helps attendees start thinking about proposals for next year’s convention. These gatherings provide a welcoming atmosphere for networking, as well as useful information for navigating the convention, so don’t miss them.

- **Standing Group and Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings and Sponsored Sessions:** Standing Groups and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are fantastic ways to get involved in a smaller community at the convention based on your interests and affiliations. You don't need prior membership or permission to attend a Standing Group or SIG meeting or session; you can simply show up! Whether you're already a member or simply intrigued by a particular Standing Group or SIG, these meetings offer a chance to connect with like-minded peers and provide valuable support among members. For more information about the organizational structure of Caucuses, Standing Groups, and Special Interest Groups, as well as a list of Standing Groups, visit <https://cccc.ncte.org/cccc/sigs>.
- **The Action Hub:** The Action Hub serves as a gathering place during the conference. It's the spot where people can come together to collaborate, brainstorm, and put into action the ideas shared by panelists. It is a space tailored to explore the expansive role of writing—from its classroom dynamics to engaging wider audiences. It's equipped with different stations that allow attendees to sharpen their writing prowess and craft powerful messages. It can be a useful place to refine communication skills, seek mentorship, and team up with fellow attendees. A couple of groups that you can find tabled at the Action Hub include:
 - **Cs the Day:** Cs the Day is a game crafted by CCCC's Play and Game Studies Council, offering both newcomers and seasoned CCCC attendees a novel and fun conference experience! Within this game, you can engage in multiple quests to earn points and badges, with the chance to win exciting prizes along the way. Check out their table in the Action Hub to learn more and to play!
 - **Social Justice at the Convention (SJAC) Committee:** The SJAC Committee will be hosting several events and initiatives to help make the convention a more social justice oriented space. These activities include its annual Books to Prisoners Book Drive, and this year they will be hosting a postcard writing event that can get attendees involved in various advocacy efforts.
- **Teacher to Teacher (T2T):** Every year, Teacher to Teacher (T2T) welcomes all CCCC Convention participants to a professional development and networking opportunity centered on teaching! Crafted as a series of enriching conversations, T2T invites participants to celebrate and share their teaching experiences. Although it is too late to submit a proposal to facilitate a conversation, you can still attend as a participant. The event is scheduled to take place this year on Saturday, April 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Attend Social Events:** There will be other events like the Friday Evening Event (more details forthcoming) where you can connect and socialize with others in a relaxed atmosphere. Keep an eye out for announcements!

“Here are my favorite events:

- *The Graduate Student Standing Group's networking event was super helpful to help me connect with scholars who I might never have met otherwise.*

- Sometimes, **publishers organize evening receptions**, which helped me connect with grad students I might never have met otherwise.
- If you attend sessions for **Special Interest Groups** that align with your research interests, those groups often go for dinner and drinks in the evening and all participants are usually invited and welcome.
- **Impromptu meetings** for coffee/dinner/drinks with people you might meet by chance in a session or in a corridor are the best!
- As a graduate student, it can be difficult to estimate which invitation to agree to based on how much expenditure that might bring. Thankfully, many senior scholars are mindful of that and they often offer to pay for part or whole of your meal. But as a rule, I usually budget \$20–30 per such meeting to ensure I can pay for myself in case I need to.”

— Anuj Gupta, PhD Student, University of Arizona

“As a graduate student, remember all the graduate student–specific events available to you to attend. You never know who might be there to invite you to something else or to encourage you to join a committee or caucus. This is helpful for your CV, networking, and future conferences. Because of my shamelessness when it came to introducing myself to others, I felt like I was being shown things behind the curtain.”

— Kayla Urban Fettig, PhD Student, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

How to Meet People

- **Approach Presenters:** After attending a session, don't hesitate to approach presenters. Express your interest in their work, ask questions, and exchange contact information for future conversations.
- **Initiate Conversations with Other Attendees:** Take advantage of coffee breaks, lunch breaks, and designated networking spaces to mingle with other attendees. A simple "Hi there! Are you enjoying the conference so far? What sessions or events have caught your attention?" can be a great conversation starter.
- **Join Group Activities:** Consider participating in group activities such as sightseeing tours, evening social events, or interest-based meetups.
- **Exchange Contact Information:** Don't hesitate to exchange contact information with individuals you meet and want to stay in touch with. After the conference concludes, don't hesitate to follow up with the people you met. Sending a friendly email or message

expressing your pleasure in meeting them and referencing something from your conversation to jog their memory can reinforce the connection.

“I experienced three impactful moments at my first CCCC. The first was when two early career scholars took me to dinner after attending their pre-conference workshop. That was one of the first times I had the opportunity to ask questions to folks outside of my institution about the embodied experience of working in our profession. These two scholars were incredibly honest and vulnerable about the challenges of working within imperfect systems of higher education. We became fast friends, and they have become important mentors to me. I still reach out to them when I have questions and doubts about my work.

I also experienced a meaningful moment of connection at the Graduate Student Standing Group's networking event. CCCC's executive organizing committee worked with graduate student officers to bring prominent scholars from across the country to meet with aspiring graduate students in a low-stress social environment. The event offered free food and drinks and was hosted in the program chair's suite! Besides the free refreshments, I felt empowered because each advanced scholar who attended the event was excited to listen to graduate students talk about their work.

The final moment of connection I experienced happened at the hotel bar late at night while talking with graduate students from other programs. We exchanged struggles and shared advice. It was a rare moment of feeling seen and heard from folks outside of the daily realities of my institution. Connecting with folks from other programs gave me hope for graduate students who want to build cross-institutional coalitions to improve the working conditions for graduate professionals.”

— Charles McMartin, PhD Student, University of Arizona

“A good goal can be to develop a connection with at least 1 scholar whose work you are interested in through this conference. I've found some version of the following to be useful for networking and session selection:

- *Take out a day before the conference to review the schedule of the presentations. Google the names of scholars whose work seems most*

interesting to you. Make a list of 5–10 scholars who seem like they could be potential mentors or collaborators in the future.

- *Drop these people an email beforehand introducing yourself. In the email also provide a brief description of your research interests, add something about their work that interests you, and make a request to meet for coffee during the conference to take their advice on your research and professional growth.*
- *Out of such 5–10 emails you might send, you could possibly hear back from 3–4 and might end up fixing appointments with 1–2, depending on people’s availability. You could go attend the sessions of the ones you can’t meet and connect with them on social media (Twitter/X or LinkedIn) later on.”*

— Anuj Gupta, PhD Student, University of Arizona

Helpful Organizations

Graduate Student Standing Group

Officers: Kayla Fettig, Anuj Gupta, Charlie McMartin, Holly Anderson

“The Graduate Student Standing Group is a student-led collective that holds space at CCCC for graduate students to share research and experiences that address the intersectional problems jeopardizing their working conditions and overall standing in higher education. Our mission is to build an intersectional, trans-institutional, and trans-generational coalition dedicated to empowering all graduate students across institutions, positionalities, and disciplines. While our embodied experiences as graduate students require that we dedicate our research, teaching, service, administration, and leadership to addressing our own unique challenges within our institutions, CCCC provides us space to come together and share the abundant tactics and strategies (Mathieu) we enact in response to those challenges.” (CCCC Graduate Student Standing Group Mission Statement)

Join the Graduate Student Standing Group's Discord: <https://discord.gg/WqZsmKcJ>

Follow the Graduate Student Standing Group on Twitter/X: <https://twitter.com/CcccGradGroup>

Look out for events and gatherings organized by this group; they can be a great starting point for networking.

[Newcomers' Welcoming Committee](#)

The [Newcomers' Welcoming Committee](#) aims to be the primary point of contact for new members and to create specialized programs for the convention. Throughout the conference, their tasks include crafting a Tip Sheet to assist new attendees in maximizing their conference experience, setting up a Welcome Table for inquiries, and organizing coffee hours, orientations, and breakfast sessions to foster connections and support newcomers.

WPA-GO

[WPA-GO](#), short for Writing Program Administrators-Graduate Organization, works to aid graduate students in preparing for writing program administration (WPA). They are committed to equity and building bridges between WPAs, graduate WPAs, and graduate students. This graduate student-led mentorship program reimagines mentorship as a collaborative, horizontal relationship rather than a traditional top-down, hierarchical structure. They also have a [Mentor Matching Program](#) for those interested in sharing, collaborating, and making cross-institutional connections, especially graduate students, recent post-grads, new and up-and-coming faculty and staff, first-time conference attendees, experienced faculty and staff, and veteran conference attendees of all ranks and categories with experience, guidance, and friendliness to share.

Research Network Forum (RNF)

RNF, or the Research Network Forum, offers a platform where scholars and researchers can present their work-in-progress in a relaxed setting. It fosters engaging discussions among participants, facilitated by experienced researchers who serve as discussion leaders. RNF participation is different from the main conference program but includes benefits like networking opportunities and having your name listed on the program, which can be helpful for obtaining travel funding. Although it is too late to submit a proposal this year, it can be helpful to consider the RNF as a space for participation and connection at future CCCC conventions!

FAQs

What is CCCC?

[CCCC](#), or the Conference on College Composition and Communication, is the world's largest professional organization for researching and teaching composition, from writing to new media.

The broader organization includes the Annual Convention that takes place every spring, but it is not just the convention. CCCC also has a publications division that includes the academic journal *College Composition and Communication* and the Studies in Writing and Rhetoric Book Series; it hosts a variety of online and in-person events throughout the year, and it sponsors research and provides a wide variety of resources for writing teacher-scholars.

CCCC is also a volunteer-run organization. A huge cadre of volunteers work together to keep the organization running and there are many opportunities to get involved! If you're interested in helping at the Annual Convention or in other ways, please reach out to CCCC Associate Chair Jennifer Sano-Franchini (jennifer.sano-franchini@mail.wvu.edu).

When does the CCCC 2024 program go online?

The full program for CCCC 2024 will be available online approximately six weeks before the Convention begins; however, the [list of sessions](#) is already available on the CCCC website! The general schedule for the convention is also available here:

<https://cccc.ncte.org/cccc/conv/schedule>

How are decisions made at CCCC?

The CCCC Executive Committee (EC), which includes the Officers' Committee, is the primary governing body of the organization. The EC oversees the operations of CCCC, including its budget and policies. The EC engages in decision-making based on democratic principles, knowledge- and research-based governance, and using Sturgis's Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure.

The Officers Committee carries out policies set by the EC, prepares recommendations for the EC, and acts for the EC between scheduled meetings, when necessary.

The current CCCC Officers for 2024 are:

- Frankie Condon, Chair
- Jennifer Sano-Franchini, Associate Chair
- Kofi Adisa, Assistant Chair
- Staci Perryman-Clark, Immediate Past Chair
- Becky Shelton, Secretary
- Emily Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of NCTE, is the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of CCCC and serves as an *ex officio* officer of CCCC

There are also two graduate student representatives who serve as voting members of the Executive Committee. *To get involved, get in touch with the Grad Standing Group representative Kayla Fettig and the rest of the leaders of the Graduate Student Standing Group!*

For more about the composition of the Executive Committee and the governance structure and processes of the organization, see its [Constitution and Bylaws](#).

How is the convention location selected?

The CCCC Annual Convention location generally moves in a pattern that goes from the middle of the US, to the East Coast, to the middle of the US, to the West Coast, to the middle of the US, and so on. In addition, many factors are taken into account, including financial feasibility and affordability, capacity for the number of attendees in terms of number of flights and lodging space, space availability for sessions, and accessibility for participants with disabilities.

Generally, the NCTE/CCCC convention staff put out a request for proposals, to which various cities may respond. From those possibilities, a list of sites is presented to the membership, who provide feedback. A final list of 2–3 sites is then presented to the CCCC Executive Committee for discussion and a vote. The [CCCC website](#), including the [CCCC Convention Siting and Hostile Legislation: Guiding Principles](#), provides more details about how convention sites are chosen.

How do I request accommodations for disabilities?

If you require accommodations, you can request them by emailing Lori Bianchini, the NCTE Meeting and Events Coordinator at lbianchini@ncte.org.

Where can I find information about accessibility at CCCC 2024?

[The Accessibility Guide](#) offers detailed information about accessibility at the convention site, how we can all create a culture of access at the convention, and much more.

What additional facilities or services will be available?

At the conference venue, there will be a Muslim Prayer Room, a quiet room, and additional space allocated for childcare, nursing, and caregiver respite.

Do I have to stick to what I wrote in the proposal?

It's alright to deviate from your proposal. Your acceptance to the conference was based on your proposal, so completely changing your topic might not be ideal. However, the research process often leads to findings that take your work in a slightly different direction. You are more than welcome to adjust your presentation accordingly.

How do I approach a presenter after their session?

When approaching a presenter after their session, it's a good idea to wait until after the Q&A session. You can then share your thoughts or ask questions related to their presentation and express your genuine interest in their work. If the conversation flows naturally and there's time, you might suggest exchanging contact information for future discussions.

After the conference, consider sending friendly thank-you emails to those with whom you've connected. You may want to include a brief mention of the conference to provide context. If

you've discussed potential collaborations or shared interests, this email can be a good opportunity to offer to stay in touch and share any relevant resources.

Are there any specific events or support networks available or recommended for international student attendees and scholars?

CCCC hosts numerous caucuses, special interest groups (SIGs), and standing groups (SGs). These groups are open to all attendees, and international participants might find them particularly intriguing. For instance, among these are: the [Non-Native English-Speaking Writing Instructors \(NNEswIs\) Standing Group](#), the [Global & Non-Western Rhetorics \(GNWR\) Standing Group](#), the [Transnational Composition Standing Group](#), the [International Researchers' Consortium](#), and the [International Writing Centers Association \(IWCA\)](#). Additionally, identity-based caucuses might also capture your interest. A full list of [CCCC Member Groups](#) can be found on the CCCC website.

Kayla's Chronicles: CCCs for Newcomers

Attending Cs for the first time, I was scared out of my mind. I had never been to a conference as big and respected in the field. Not only was I presenting, but I was determined to make the best of my time there due to the costs, the labor, and the scholars I might have an opportunity to meet with. Eventually, after I learned my presentation would be on the last day of the conference, I rearranged my schedule. I promised to attend every panel I wanted to in order to meet the scholars in the field I admired. That plan backfired immensely, as I was exhausted by mid-day on day one. I was overloaded with information, and the connection I hoped to make wasn't there yet. It was clear I was new to the conference, confused about the etiquette that went with such a large conference. So, I did what any panicking grad school student might do: reach out to a lifeline.



I posted on Twitter (now X) that I was new to the conference and had difficulty meeting people, connecting with students who came as cohorts from their respected universities, and hoping for a response. Within hours, a lovely group of academics at the conference saw my post and invited me to dinner. It was the first time my social media had helped me connect with people in such a positive fashion.

The next day, I made it a goal to connect with grad students, attending many of their panels, asking them to get cheap lunches, and how to be more involved, as they seemed to know the conference better than I did. Eventually, with every person I connected with, I made a goal to keep in contact. First, I joined the members of the Graduate Standing Group, which connected me to the graduate meeting with the program chair. I shamelessly introduced myself (as I had been doing all along) to her, and we had a great conversation about where graduate students fit in these conferences and how we can connect them more to one another. This was not the only topic we discussed; we spent time discussing many things, but this seemed important to me, still feeling like an outsider that was inside the conference.

Kayla Urban Fettig, PhD Student, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Helpful Links and Contacts

[CCCC Newcomers' Welcoming Committee](#)

[CCCC Social Justice at the Convention \(SJAC\) Committee](#)

[CCCC Officers and Executive Committee](#)

[WPA-GO](#)

Acronyms

AAAC: Asian/Asian American Caucus

ATTW: Association of Teachers of Technical Writing

CCC: *College Composition and Communication*

CCCC: Conference on College Composition and Communication

CDICC: Committee on Disability Issues in College Composition

CFSHRC: Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition

EC: Executive Committee

FYC: first-year composition

FYW: first-year writing

IWCA: International Writing Centers Association

NCTE: National Council of Teachers of English

RNF: Research Network Forum

SIG: special Interest Group

SG: Standing Group

SJAC: Social Justice at the Convention Committee

SWR: Studies in Writing and Rhetoric Book Series

TPC: technical and professional communication

TYCA: Two-Year College Association

WC: writing center

WPA: writing program administrator; writing program administration

WPA-GO: Writing Program Administrators—Graduate Organization