



AERA Annual Meeting Discussant Responsibilities Guide

Discussants are responsible for commenting on papers and presentations to provide professional and constructive criticism and raise issues for broader consideration that connect to these works.

Responsibilities fall into the following two areas:

In Advance of the Session

- Download and read the papers for your session after the March 31 author paper upload deadline, in order to prepare comments and organize your thoughts. (Instructions on how to access papers are at the bottom of this email.)
- Prepare appropriate analytical or critical commentaries on the significance and contribution of the papers presented in the session. You are under no obligation to comment on papers not uploaded in the online program.
- Connect with the session chair, who should have contacted you by email, to review the shape of the session and time constraints on the length of discussion.

At the Session

- Serve as commentator about the papers and issues on substantive points pertaining to these works. It is expected that you draw upon your expertise and views in commenting on papers or presentations; however, it is not the appropriate occasion to present your work.
- Provide comments on papers that will assist authors in taking steps toward publication in order to help authors minimize the time between presentation and publication. Such commentary may include remarks in the session, comments written directly on the papers, and/or discussions with the authors.
- Encourage authors to submit papers to the appropriate AERA journals.