For new graduate students, entering into the professional conversation of their discipline via an academic conference can be unnerving. How do you join an ongoing dialogue of which you just became a part?

In this workshop designed for first and second year graduate students, we’ll trace the process of responding to a call for proposals to academic conferences and examine the characteristics of successful proposals. We’ll then consider how to then give the presentation once your proposal has been accepted. Please bring calls for conference presentations in your discipline, and any of your past (or current) proposals. Although this workshop is designed for new graduate students, all are welcome!

Instructor: Melissa Bender earned her Ph.D. in English at University of California, Davis, in 2009. She is a Continuing Lecturer in the University Writing Program at UC Davis and also serves as the Assistant Director for the Writing Across the Curriculum program. She is the co-author, with Karma Waltonen, of Twenty Writing Assignments in Context: An Instructor’s Resource for the Composition Classroom (McFarland 2017) and Who’s Your Source? A Student Writer’s Guide to the Ethical and Effective Use of Resources (Broadview Press 2019). Her research interests include 20th century U.S. memoir, writing pedagogy, popular culture, American Studies, and visual rhetoric. She presents regularly at national and international conferences.