

Education Session Formats

Please review the options below for the type and length of format you may select. APWA offers 10 different formats to ensure dynamic education sessions.

1. Education Session: (50 minutes)

50 minute education sessions may be delivered by a single speaker or a panel consisting of 2-3 speakers. The content includes best practices, how to's, case studies, insightful stories, emerging trends and technologies, new perspectives, etc.

2. Education Session: (75 minutes)

75 minute education sessions may be delivered by a single speaker or a panel consisting of 3-5 speakers. The content includes best practices, how to's, case studies, insightful stories, emerging trends and technologies, new perspectives, etc.

3. Lightning Round:(75 minutes - three 20 minute presentations, 15 minutes for Q&A.)

APWA's version of Lightning Round format consists of three-20 minute presentations scheduled within a 75 minute timeframe. The remaining 15 minutes may be devoted to audience Q&A. You will be asked on the Call for Presentations form to indicate if (1) you intend to plan the whole Lightning Round yourself including finding the 3 speakers or (2) you are willing to allow your presentation to be assigned as a 20 minute presentation within a Lightning Round even though you do not know the other speakers by choosing the "Adaptable Session Type"

4. Dare to Ask: (50 minutes)

Do you have an issue for which you'd like feedback from your public works colleagues? In this type of session you pose a question to your audience and then let everyone think out loud about what the issue means for public works. Essentially it is an opportunity to brainstorm, network, and provide inspiration. We're looking for topics that will challenge and engage the audience. If you have such a topic and would like to lead this type of dialogue, please describe the topic in the description block on the Call for Presentations form. It could be the type of issue that is always like the "elephant-in-the-room". It is influencing policy, operations, staff morale, etc., but no one is really addressing it.

6. Jam Session: (50 minutes)

APWA's version of the Jam session format begins with a facilitated discussion where you first set the stage by posing questions to get the audience thinking about key concepts. Then like jazz, you let the discussion go off on the tangents that audience members want to explore. Depending on the size of the audience, you can keep the whole group together or if it is a large group, you can break participants into smaller groups that can follow the tangents into whichever direction the conversation leads. You will be asked on the Call for Presentations form to indicate what topic you'd like to pursue and provide a brief description of why that topic is suitable for a jam session.

7. Thought Leader Presentations: (20 minutes each presenter)

Thought Leader presentations will be done in the manner of Ted Talks. We'll set aside a room where a series of speakers will share an inspiring story or an insight into emerging trends, or a leadership perspective. Each speaker will get no more than 20 minutes, then you must move along for the next speaker to set up. We'll allow you to use slides, but keep them at a minimum and don't rely on slides to tell your story.

8. Innovation Trends Presentations: (20 minutes each presenter)

Innovation Trends presentations will be done in the manner of Ted Talks. We'll set aside a room where a series of speakers will share information about innovative solutions, technologies, and trends. Each speaker will get no more than 20 minutes, then you must move along for the next speaker to set up. We'll allow you to use slides, but keep them at a minimum and don't rely on slides to tell your story.

9. Point-Counter-Point: (50 minutes)

This type of presentation will feature conflicting perspectives on a public works issue. This could be a fun exercise in which panel members use a debate format to inform the audience about different ways to approach a public works project, issue, or challenge. The panel can take turns listing the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. When you fill out the Call for Presentations form, please list who your speakers will be and the topic you will debate.

10. Workshop: (120 minutes)

The workshop format is for topics that need a deeper dive than a shorter timeframe can provide. They usually delve into a particular concept or teach a specific skill. They may include demos or provide exercises so participants may practice what they are learning. Workshops are usually approximate 2 hours (120 minutes) in length, depending of the timeframes available during the overall conference

11. Master Class: (50 to 75 minutes)

Targeted to the Advanced Proficiency Level, this format is aimed at exploring a nuance or how to overcome particular challenges and difficulties to "master" the issue at hand. No need to review the fundamentals of a topic or issue in this session, instead take participants on a deep dive with practical application, tips, and tricks that only the most advanced practitioners have discovered.