

**SSCA 97th Annual Convention
Call for Participation
April 7-11, 2027/Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel/Mobile,
Alabama
“Curiosity”**

Argumentation and Forensics Division

VP & Program Planner: Scott Thomson (scott.thomson@ttu.edu)

The Argumentation and Forensics Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2027 Conference to be held in Mobile, Alabama. We especially welcome submissions that address the convention theme, “Curiosity.”

The division welcomes papers, panels, and workshops across the spectrum of argumentation (e.g., theory, criticism, pedagogy) and competitive forensics/speech and debate (e.g., pedagogy, history, praxis, culture, forensics across the curriculum, Urban Debate Leagues, public debate formats). Non-traditional formats and experimental events such as roundtable discussions and performance showcases are encouraged. All competitive papers submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Paper Award.

The division especially welcomes submissions of all formats that address any of the following matters:

1. **Argumentation Pedagogy:** Best practices, curriculum, activities, and other pedagogy-related matters for teaching argumentation and persuasion in a classroom environment or in a competitive debate or speech context.
2. **Perspectives on The Status of Argumentation:** Sharing, comparing, and contrasting perspectives on the function and role of argumentation in the digital age from either a competitive forensics or other background.

In addition, proposals and submissions could address the following:

1. Curiosity as a driver of argumentation. Argument construction can be seen as a means satisfying curiosity.
2. Curiosity as a feature of forensics. Curiosity presupposes a desire to know; forensics practitioners acknowledge these desires in varied ways.
3. Curiosity as a guide to inquiry. Advocates ask what issues to address.
4. Curiosity as exigence. What occasions give rise to the desire to satisfy curiosity?
5. Curiosity satiated. Are there burdens associated with the resolution of curiosity?
6. Curiosity as intentional forensic community praxis. The desire to learn compels coordination.
7. Curiosity seeks variety. Argument scholarship frequently crosses boundaries in pursuit of innovation.

(these prompts should not be considered limiting)

Submission Types:

Town Hall Debate: The division sponsors the SSCA Town Hall Debate and invites topic suggestions. All topic submissions should address the conference theme of “Curiosity”. The division welcomes undergraduate and graduate students to participate as debaters; and encourages senior-level graduate students and faculty to participate as moderators and coordinators. Those interested in debating, moderating, or coordinating the event should contact the division planner, Scott Thomson (scott.thomson@ttu.edu) no later than **September 1st, 2026**.

Student Speaking Spotlight: The division wishes to reintroduce an event held at previous conventions in which students present original speeches in the form of an exhibition panel. For this event, the division especially welcomes the following types of pieces: persuasive speeches, policy speeches, communication analysis/criticism pieces, and other speech types that relate to argumentation. Those interested in speaking at, moderating, or coordinating an event should contact the division planner, Scott Thomson (scott.thomson@ttu.edu) no later than **September 1st, 2026**. Coaches/instructors are strongly encouraged to contact the division planner with nominations for interested students.

Please note: Proposals for Town Hall Debates and the Student Speaking Spotlight deadlines are earlier and will be submitted to XCD platform after coordination with the division planner.

Workshop Proposals: The division welcomes workshop proposals addressing the convention theme “Curiosity”. How might Curiosity relate to argumentation. Submissions are not required to address these matters. Submissions for Workshops should be submitted as Panel submissions in the XCD platform. Workshop submissions must include 1) a workshop title, 2) an overall workshop rationale (no more than 200 words) and 3) the following information about EACH facilitator of the workshop: their name(s), institutional affiliation(s) and contact information. All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted in the “paper upload option” on the XCD platform.

Competitive Paper Submissions: All paper submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. For the paper to be assigned for review, please follow all the instructions on the convention site. For anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript. All papers submitted will be considered for the Division's Top Paper Award. For student papers, indicate "STUDENT" on the first page of the manuscript, and indicate "Student Paper" during the submission process. The Division's Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award.

Panel or Roundtable Submissions: Panels and roundtables are submitted through the same process as competitive papers; just be sure to select the appropriate submission type when prompted. The submitter will be able to add other panelists as "authors" after the initial submission. Upload a copy of the panel, listing the description/rationale, panelists, and, if appropriate, panelists' individual topics; upload this at the "Upload Paper" prompt.

All paper submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. For the paper to be assigned for review, please follow the instructions on the convention site. For the purposes of anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript. All papers submitted will be considered for the Division's Top Paper Award. For student papers, indicate "STUDENT" on the first page of the manuscript, and indicate "Student Paper" during the submission process. The Division's Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award.

Panels, roundtables are submitted through the same process as competitive papers; just be sure to select the appropriate submission type when prompted. Town hall debates and forensic performances are not categories in XCD; these should be submitted in the panels/roundtables option in the submission system. The submitter will be able to add other panelists/participants as "authors" after the initial submission. Upload a copy of the panel, listing the description/rationale, panelists, and, if appropriate, panelists' individual topics; upload this at the "Upload Paper" prompt.

Deadlines: Submissions must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026**. Go to the submission site by going to the conference website (<https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>) and clicking the submission link. First-time visitors to the site will need to create an account. Return visitors will need to make sure to use the same email address that they used to establish the account. To avoid technical problems, early submission is strongly advised. Any submission not meeting the above requirements will not be accepted for review. If you have additional questions, please contact the Division Vice-Chair and Planner **Scott Thomson** (scott.thomson@ttu.edu). As

noted, the deadline for Town Hall Debates and the Student Speaking Spotlight are **September 1, 2026** to allow for additional coordination.

Anonymous Review: All papers submitted should follow standard procedures for removing any information that identifies the author and/or the institution within the paper and within any document metadata. Divisions reserve the right to reject papers not following these standards.

Audio-Visual Support: To maintain affordable conference rates, audio-visual support is extremely limited. It must be requested only if needed with supporting rationale and should be part of the submission to the division planner. Requests will be considered and are not guaranteed.

Panel Proposals: Best practices, in the interest of divisions, is to submit a proposal with a diverse panel, comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

Submission Protocol: Submissions to SSCA must be **original** research that has not been published or presented at another regional, national, or international conference. Also, the same paper or panel should not be submitted to more than one division.

Student Papers: For a submission to be considered a student paper and to be eligible for student awards or recognition, the author or authors of the paper must all be students at the time the papers is submitted. A paper co-authored by a student and a faculty member, for instance, will not be classified as a student paper.