



Author Guide

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1. Introduction

Congratulations on your abstract acceptance to the MidWest SAS® User Group (MWSUG) conference! This document provides submission guidelines and resources for contributed and invited authors.

This resource will help you format your presentation or electronic poster (e-Poster). Papers are encouraged, but **optional**. This document also gives guidance on formatting of the final paper and copyright grant form, if you wish to submit a paper. All submitted papers will be published online in the *MWSUG Proceedings*.

Many people within MWSUG are available to assist you with preparation of your presentation or e-Poster, and optional paper, including section chairs, mentors, and peers. Send them a copy of your draft so they can help you get the most out of your experience.

1.1 Important Conference Dates

Below is a list of important dates for presenters; these dates can also be found on the conference website: <http://www.mwsug.org/2024/dates.html>

Event	Date
Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration opens• Early bird registration closes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• June 17, 2024• October 11, 2024
Submissions due <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final presentation or e-Poster• Presenter biographies• If writing a paper, copyright grant form• If writing a paper, final paper	October 4, 2024
Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Session• Closing Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 17, 2024• November 19, 2024

1.2 Summary Checklist

After reading this Author Guide, use this checklist to remember important details.

- Profile and biography information in the Abstract Submission Website is complete.
- Review guidelines for presentation or e-Poster content, including:
 - Use the template
 - Stay within recommended number of slides
- Upload final presentation/e-Poster by deadline in [Section 1.1](#)
- If submitting a paper, review guidelines for paper content, including:
 - Use the template
 - Use the tips in [Section 5.2](#)
- If submitting a paper, upload by deadline in [Section 1.1](#):
 - Sign the copyright grant form
 - Save final paper in portable document format (PDF)
- Practice delivery of your presentation or e-Poster
- Bring a backup copy of your presentation or e-Poster to the conference on a USB drive.
- Share the news that you're presenting at MWSUG on social media!

1.3. Abstract Submission Website

Though the word “Abstract” is in the name, the “Abstract Submission Website” is used to submit all your important documents to the conference, such as the presentation or e-Poster, and if writing a paper, the copyright grant form, and final paper in PDF: <https://www.softconf.com/g/mwsug2024/>

2. Presentation Details

MWSUG 2024 has opportunities for 10-minute, 20-minute and 50-minute presentations.

2.1 Tips for Preparing your Presentation

1. A presentation template is available for downloading from the MWSUG website.
2. Scale your visuals for presentation in a large conference room that seats 50-150 people. Generally, font sizes should be no smaller than 24 points.
3. Divide ideas into groups of three to five, so your audience can more easily grasp information.
4. Prepare notes that compliment your slides – do not read what is shown on the slides. The audience can read faster than you can read them aloud.
5. The opening should be concise, and your purpose clearly stated; get the attention of your audience.
6. Use a closing slide to summarize your main points.
7. Wherever possible, use screen captures rather than trying to do a live demo.
8. Use a mixture of slides that show text, flow charts, and output. Images such as screen captures can be used to show a product’s application in the workplace.
9. When using graphics, mute the colors for readability.
10. Limit the text in your visuals to the main concepts.
11. Receive electronic comments and questions in real time by including the hashtags #MWSUG2024 and #SSnn for your paper in the bottom right-hand corner of your slides, where “SS” is the two-character section abbreviation and “nn” is the two-digit number assigned to your paper.

2.2 Slide Counts

Presentations can be 10,20 or 50 minutes in length. A good rule of thumb is that a slide will take 1-2 minutes to present, so if you leave five minutes for questions, a twenty-minute paper should be about 10-12 slides, and a 50-minute paper should be about 30-35 slides. A 10-minute presentation should be 1-2 slides.

2.3 Presentation Requirements

1. Use SAS and other trademarks correctly in your slides. A list showing the proper names and trademarks for SAS products is available at: https://www.sas.com/en_us/legal/trademarks.html.
2. Presentation file should be a PowerPoint *.pptx file. If created using Adobe PDF, it must have the capability of Full Screen Mode display, similar to the PowerPoint display (i.e., same ratio).

2.4 Presentation Examples

Refer to the MWSUG presentation template on the MWSUG 2024 website.

2.5 Practicing your Presentation

1. Practice your presentation aloud, speaking slowly and clearly. Remember that how you say it is just as important as what you say.

2. Ask others to listen and give you feedback about the volume, clarity, and speed of your presentation.
3. Practice the timing your presentation, staying within the time allotted.
4. “SAS” rhymes with “glass”, “pass”, “mass”. Please do not refer to SAS products or to the company as “S” “A” “S” that is, pronouncing each letter. “SAS” is one syllable and is no longer considered an acronym.
5. Do not read your slides or paper (if you prepared one). Use an outline of your major concepts to follow when making your presentation.
6. Use plain English to help your audience grasp your message more easily. This is an international audience; English may be a second language for many attendees.
7. Conclude your presentation by repeating your opening theme and main ideas. Answer any questions that you might have raised in your opening and repeat the main point of your presentation.

2.6 Room Setup

Each meeting room at the conference will include a projector and microphone. If you have any additional needs, please tell your Section Chair as soon as possible. The presentation you upload to the Abstract Submission Website will be preloaded on the laptop in the room.

2.7 Delivering your Presentation

1. Note the time and room location of your presentation.
2. Arrive at the correct location at least one presentation before yours.
3. Let the Section Chair or Session Coordinator know you are there. The Session Coordinator will help you operate the projector and take care of the lighting.
4. Your title and biography slide will be displayed on the screen prior to your presentation.
5. Be sure that everything that you need is in place and working.
6. Stand at the podium if possible. This gives the audience a clear view of both the screen and you.
7. Be aware of the time. The Session Coordinator will help you via flash cards that will show how much time remains. The Session Coordinator will stop your presentation when the allotted time is up.
8. Do not turn around to read your slides to the audience; it hinders the ability of the audience to hear you.
9. When your presentation is finished, thank your audience for their attention and ask if there are any questions while still at the podium.
10. Allow about 5 minutes of your allotted time for the audience to ask questions. It’s very common for speakers to get questions; you should consider it a compliment that your listeners want to learn more about your ideas.
 - a. Repeat each question. This verifies what the question is, and it also gives you a few seconds to prepare an answer.
 - b. If you do not know the answer, say so, and offer to get the answer to the question after the presentation.
11. If possible, stay at the back of the room a few minutes after your presentation to be accessible for more questions and to get contact information from people for any follow-up questions.
12. Be courteous of the next presenter and if any conversations or questions continue when the next presentation starts, continue the conversation outside the presentation room.

3. Electronic Poster Details

Electronic posters (e-Posters) are similar to traditional poster presentations but are presented on a large monitor. The e-Poster should be designed so that the topic covered is clear and concise.

3.1 e-Poster Guidelines

1. Use the PowerPoint e-Poster template to create your e-Poster. If you choose to not use the template, please ensure your e-Poster conforms to the following requirements:
 - a. One to eight slides
 - b. 16:9 ratio
 - c. Landscape orientation
 - d. Professional font such as Arial, Times New Roman, Calibri
 - e. Font size should ideally be 28 pt or larger; no smaller than 18 pt.
 - f. File size should be 100 MB or less
 - g. Title and author(s) included at the top

Note: If the submitted e-Poster is not the correct size, it will be forced to the correct size, which may cause distortion.

2. No aspect of the e-Poster should be dependent on the internet. It should be self-containing.
3. Any formulas in the e-Poster should be embedded as images and not as actual formulas. This will allow the formulas to display consistently across different platforms.
4. Any animations included will need to work on a timer instead of a mouse click; refer to Kiosk Mode for more information ([Section 3.4](#))

3.2 e-Poster Tips

1. Before you start preparing your e-Poster, ask yourself the following:
 - a. What is the main goal of the e-Poster?
 - b. What do you want your audience to take away?
2. An e-Poster is like an outline, not a novel. Keep the information on the e-Poster simple and easy to follow. Remember that you will not always be there to explain it.
3. Graphs, column charts, box plots, drawings, and other artwork are effective poster enhancements.
4. An example poster can be found on the MWSUG website, under [Presenter Resources](#).
5. For assistance with creating your e-Poster, talk to the [e-Poster Section Chair](#).
6. For some helpful tips on creating a poster, refer to the following websites:
<http://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/cpurrin1/posteradvice.htm>
<https://luponvochs.files.wordpress.com/2008/10/how-to-design-an-electronic-poster.pdf>

3.3 e-Poster Requirements

1. Use SAS and other trademarks correctly in your slides. A list showing the proper names and trademarks for SAS products is available at: https://www.sas.com/en_us/legal/trademarks.html.
2. File should be a PowerPoint *.pptx file. If created using Adobe PDF, then it needs to have the capability of Full Screen Mode display, similar to the PowerPoint display (i.e., same ratio).

3.4 Kiosk Mode

The e-Posters will be done in Kiosk Mode. This means that all the e-Posters submitted will be combined

into one master file with a menu and navigation buttons. Each e-Poster will only be accessible from the main menu. In Kiosk Mode, the 'click to advance' feature will be disabled and replaced with navigation buttons. Since the 'click to advance' feature will be disabled, any animations that work on a mouse-click will not function.

3.5 Final e-Poster Submission

Final e-Posters must be uploaded to the Abstract Submission Website listed in [Section 1.3](#) by the deadline shown in [Section 1.1](#).

4. Copyright grant form (if writing a paper)

1. Completion of the copyright grant form is **only** required if submitting a paper.
2. The copyright grant form can be found on the MWSUG website.
3. The copyright grant agreement gives MWSUG a non-exclusive right to publish your paper in the conference proceedings and to reproduce your paper in sales and marketing literature.
4. Please ensure the paper title appears on the copyright grant form exactly as it appears on the abstract and final paper. In the event of discrepancies between title wordings, the copyright grant form title will take precedence.
5. Signing the copyright grant form agreement confirms your approval to attend the conference and present your accepted paper. If you will not be able to attend the conference as scheduled, please notify your Section Chair immediately. If you have arranged for someone else to present your paper, provide the name of your substitute to the Section Chair at that time.
6. Upload the copyright grant form to the Abstract Submission Website.
7. Signed copyright grant forms are due by the deadline indicated in [Section 1.1](#).

5. Paper Details

Papers are encouraged, but **not** required of MWSUG presenters.

Final papers should use proper style, capitalization, terminology, formatting, and scope. Refer to the MWSUG 2024 Sample Paper on the website, or "Best Papers" from past MWSUG conferences as a guide on the proper use of these concepts.

5.1 Required Paper Attributes

All papers will reviewed by the Section Chair, Publications Coordinator and Webmaster for the required attributes. Papers without these attributes will be returned to the author for editing. Many of these attributes are part of the paper template.

1. Paper number is included above the title ([Section 5.4.1](#)) and is correct.
2. Title is centered and properly capitalized ([Section 5.4.1](#)) and appears exactly as written on the copyright grant form.
3. Author and affiliation are beneath the title and is separated by a comma. Multiple authors are separated by semicolons, as described in [Section 5.4.2](#), Item 2.c.
4. The paper is formatted as a final paper; draft papers not allowed.
5. Appropriate trademark symbols (® or ™) appear after the first reference to a SAS product in

- paper ([Section 5.4.2](#), Item 4) or any other trademarked product.
6. The SAS Trademark Citation is included on the final page of the paper ([Section 5.4.2](#), Item 5).
 7. Final paper must be in PDF format with the appropriate properties ([Section 6.1.1](#)).

5.2 Paper Tips

If you are solving a common problem, focus on your solution and the results of your experience. Emphasize how your techniques can be used by others for similar applications. If you are presenting a novel solution, focus on what makes your solution unique from past solutions, and why others should consider your solution. Authors are strongly suggested to conduct a literature review to provide examples or references to prior authors who may have solved a similar problem.

5.2 Paper Examples

For good examples of papers, check out last year's "Best Contributed Paper" awards (<http://www.mwsug.org/2019/bestpapers.html>) or contact the Paper Mentorship/Speaker Training Coordinator at Mentoring@mwsug.org for paper examples.

5.3 Capitalization, Terminology, Code, References

5.3.1 Capitalization

Use the following SAS conventions for capitalization:

1. In a Data step, DATA is always all uppercase when you are referring to the DATA step.
2. When referencing SAS code in the text, use all caps for names of procedures, statements, options, functions, commands and steps. At the first mention of a procedure, its name followed by the word "procedure" should be used (e.g., "the PRINT procedure"). Any subsequent reference to the procedure in the text can use the SAS code notation (e.g., "PROC PRINT").

5.3.2 Terminology and Trademarks

Use the following conventions for terminology:

1. Use complete names when referring to trademarked product names, for example, use "Enterprise Guide" instead of "SAS EG" or "EG". For a list of SAS product names, see https://www.sas.com/en_us/software/all-products.html#all-products-a-z).
2. Write "data set" as two words, but "database" as one word.
3. Refer to the following: https://documentation.sas.com/doc/en/pgmsascdc/9.4_3.5/pgmsasgl/glossary.htm , for a list of commonly used terms and phrases that will help make your text more easily translatable and understood by an international audience.
4. Use this resource for proper use of trademarks: https://www.sas.com/en_us/legal/editorial-guidelines.html

5.3.3 SAS Code

Do not bury SAS code in body of the text. Set it off from the text as shown in the paper template ([Section 5.4.2](#)).

Use this resource to properly cite the SAS software used for your analysis:

https://www.sas.com/en_us/legal/editorial-guidelines.html

5.3.4 References

1. All published work that is cited in your paper must be listed in the **References** section.
 - a. The reference format for sources published in hard copy: Author(s). Date of publication or last revision. *Title of Reference*. City, State of publisher: Name of publisher.
 - b. The reference format for sources published on the Web: Author. "Title of Document" Title of Complete Work. <Web address> any additional directions for retrieving source (access date).
2. If you include text or visuals that were written or developed by someone other than yourself, you must cite the sources.
 - a. If the source is copyrighted material:
 - i. You must mention that you have permission from the copyright holder or the publisher. The copyright holder or publisher may require you to include a copyright notice. For example: Reprinted with permission of XYZ Company from <Book name>. Copyright 2004. XYZ Company Inc.
 - ii. To use materials from SAS that are copyrighted you must receive permission from SAS. Complete the Request for Permission to Use Copyrighted Materials at https://www.sas.com/en_us/contact-forms/copyrighted-materials-request.html
 - b. If the source is not copyrighted material
 - i. Cite the source in parenthesis after the direct quote or image. For example: "The minimum variance method defines the distance between clusters (Ward 1984, p.23)."

5.4 Formatting Requirements

Manuscripts meeting the formatting requirements below will be published in the *MWSUG Proceedings*.

5.4.1 Paper Number and Title

On the first page, **use the paper number and exact title from the copyright grant form**.

5.4.2 Use of the Paper Template

It is strongly recommended that you use the provided paper template. The template is available in the Presenter Resource section on the MWSUG 2024 website, <http://www.mwsug.org/2024/resources.html>, and contains all the sections needed in your paper, suggested fonts and type sizes for the headers and text in the body of the paper.

You can save yourself much work by using the paper template; it already incorporates most of the formatting that you need. However, if you do not use the template, please ensure your paper conforms to the following guidelines:

1. All **margins** should be 1 inch.
2. On the **first page**:
 - a. Center the number of the paper about 1 inch from the top of the page,
 - b. Center the title about ¼ of an inch under the number of the paper,

- c. Center the names of the author(s) and the company affiliation(s) under the title and
 - d. Begin the text about a ½ of an inch down from the name of the last author.
3. On all **following pages** center page numbers about 3/8 of an inch from the bottom of the page.
4. **Trademarks:**
- a. Insert the appropriate trademark symbols (® or ™) for the first reference of SAS or other trademarked product. A list of SAS products and their appropriate symbol can be found at the URL listed below https://www.sas.com/en_us/legal/trademarks.html.
 - b. Use the appropriate trademark symbol the first time you mention a SAS trademarked product in your paper and in each slide. Subsequent references to the same product do not receive trademark symbols in papers. If a trademark appears in the title, this counts as the first appearance.
5. **Final page:** must contain the following Trademark Citation:
 SAS and all other SAS Institute Inc. product or service names are registered trademarks or trademarks of SAS Institute Inc. in the USA and other countries. ® indicates USA registration. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies.
6. **Body text** should be:
- a. Single-spaced
 - b. Consistent in size with the font sizes in the template. The font sizes in the paper template are summarized in the table below.
 - c. If readable and professional, body text can be in a different font face.

	Element	Font	Case	Size
1	Paper Number	Arial Bold	Proper Case	10
2	Title	Arial Bold	Proper Case	13
3	Author(s) Name and Affiliation	Arial	Proper Case	11
4	Header 1 (e.g., Abstract)	Arial Bold	Heading 1 Style or UPPER CASE	11
5	Header 2 (e.g., sub-header)	Arial Bold	Heading 2 Style or UPPER CASE	10
6	Body	Arial	Sentence case	10
7	SAS Code	Courier New	lower case	10

6. Final Paper PDFs

Final papers must be uploaded to the Abstract Submission Website listed in [Section 1.3](#) by the deadline indicated in [Section 1.1](#).

6.1 PDF Creation

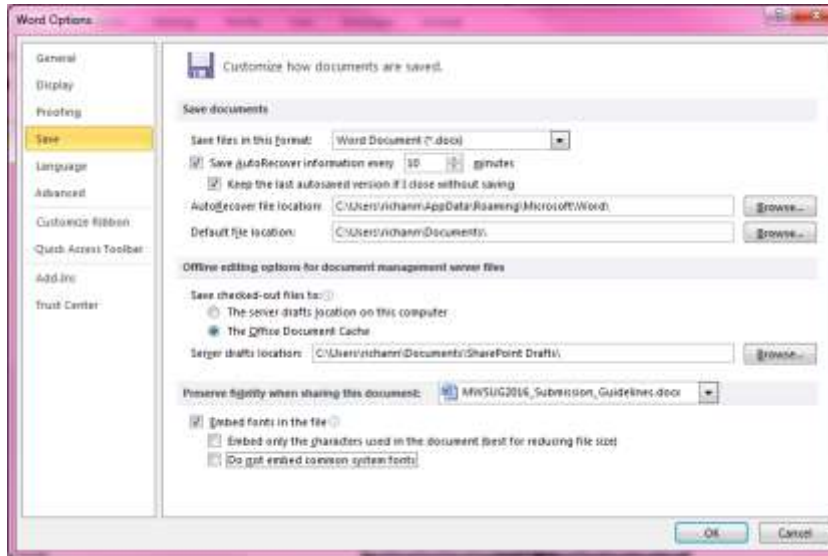
6.1.1 Document Properties and Embedded Fonts

When creating your final PDF file, it is **required** that you place the title, keywords and first author in the corresponding sections of the **Document Properties**. Please fill in the subject field of the **Document Properties** with the following: **SSnn - MWSUG 2024**, where SSnn is your paper number. “SS” corresponds to the two-character section code and “nn” corresponds to the number assigned by the Section Chair. This is **not** the number assigned by the Abstract Submission System. Note: if you have already done this in Microsoft Word, the information may not be carried through into the resulting PDF. **You may need to re-**

enter it.

Exactly how you embed fonts will vary from application to application and version to version. These instructions will vary depending on the version of Microsoft Word. Below are the instructions for Microsoft Word for Microsoft Office 365:

1. Navigate to the Word Options menu (File → Options)
2. Within the Word Options menu, navigate to the Save options.
3. Make sure the check box for 'Embed fonts in the file' is checked and that the check box for 'Do not embed common system fonts' is **unchecked**.



4. Click OK to save the new options.
5. RE-SAVE THE DOCUMENT AS A WORD DOCUMENT.
6. Once the document is re-saved with the fonts embedded, then it can be saved as a PDF.

6.1.2 PDF File Creation

Some versions of Microsoft Word have an option to save the document as PDF. If your version has the save as PDF option, you can save the file as a PDF after you have embedded the fonts and re-saved as a word document. If you are unable to create a PDF file, please contact your Section Chair.

6.2 Checklist for Final PDF File

Before uploading the PDF, make ensure:

1. The assigned paper number appears at the top of the paper.
2. The title matches the title on the copyright grant form.
3. Nothing except the page number is within the 1” margins.
4. The page numbers are at the bottom of each page.
5. The file has been saved with the fonts embedded.

If you have any problems creating or uploading your PDF file, contact your Section Chair for assistance.

6.3 Supporting Materials

If authors feel the need to provide supporting materials, they should consider uploading to an online

repository and mentioning this in their presentation or paper. Handouts may be used if necessary. Handouts should be used for information such as example code, graphics, or other supporting material

If you decide to print handouts, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Do not include price lists, support commitments, promotional data, or other information of a sales nature.
2. Include your name and contact information so that people can contact you if they have questions or want more information.
3. Do not rely on your supporting materials to take the place of good visuals or a well- prepared oral presentation.
4. Bring a minimum of 50 copies.
5. When you check in before your presentation, tell the Section Chair that you have a handout. The Section Chair will have one of the assigned Session Coordinators distribute the handouts as you begin your presentation.
6. Insert the appropriate trademark symbols (® or ™) and citations ([Section 5.4.2](#), Item 4).