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Transform presentations to *TAPPI Journal* research papers by following basic steps

Very often, important research findings are communicated in presentation form at industry conferences like those TAPPI holds. While this is a great way to highlight your work, it has some limitations when compared to a peer-reviewed *TAPPI Journal* paper. Presentations are limited to a specific event, while publishing papers in a peer-reviewed journal means that your work becomes part of scientific literature that is available to a broader audience. Also, a research paper allows for a more detailed explanation of the methods, data, and conclusions than the time-constrained format of a presentation.

Turning a scientific presentation into a *TAPPI Journal* paper involves tailoring the content and structure to fit the expectations of a written scientific work. For those unfamiliar with the process or daunted by the prospect, below are some steps to consider when creating a paper for this journal from a presentation.

Analyze the presentation

A good starting point is to look through all the presentation slides and notes to identify key points and relevant data for communicating your findings, noting any gaps in information or areas that need a more detailed explanation than the allocated time for your conference presentation would allow. This includes thinking about what supporting visuals to repurpose from the presentation and whether you should create additional ones. Also, try to assess the paper through the eyes of an outside expert, keeping in mind any questions that attendees might have had during your presentation.

Create an outline and expand content

Scientific papers follow a basic structure that includes an Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, and References. Here are some characteristics of these sections.

1. Abstract: This is a short but comprehensive summary of the research, including the problem/background, methods used, results, and conclusions. It should be understandable for a broad audience, not just experts in its specific topical area. It should also be self-contained and standalone, with no literature references.

2. Introduction: This is the place to expand on the background information or problem that prompted the research. It includes a literature review of associated research, and it is the place to describe the objectives of your particular study. In-text citations for all data, theories, or findings that are not your own should be added here and throughout the entire paper. The literature review will likely be more extensive than you included in the presentation.

3. Methods: It is important to provide a comprehensive description of your experimental or analytical procedures. You should include the specific equipment, chemicals, testing, and novel processes used in the study. Note any standard test methods used or thoroughly explain/reference nonstandard testing.

4. Results: In this section, you present the findings along with supporting data. This may include detailed data, figures, and tables that were previously summarized in your presentation. This may require reformatting data presentation so that it is more appropriate for a paper compared to a presentation.

5. Discussion: This section is where you interpret study results and compare them with those of previous studies in the References/Literature section. The discussion should also mention potential limitations of the study and whether there were unexpected findings, along with a potential explanation for them.

6. Conclusion: The Conclusion summarizes the key findings of the research without repeating all details covered in the Results section. For many research works, quantifiable conclusions are highly valuable. Conclusions should

not be speculative, but suggestions for future research based on these findings can be included.

7. References: Here, you should list out all the in-text citations, making sure they adhere to the *TAPPI Journal* format.

During the writing process, you may want to share your paper with colleagues or mentors to gather feedback before you submit your paper for external peer review. Also, if you feel that your findings are more preliminary, *TAPPI Journal* provides an option to submit your work as a Technical Brief, and there is an option to flag it as such in our [online submission portal](#).

Before and after submission

Before submitting your paper, make sure it adheres to *TAPPI Journal's* author guidelines regarding word count and figure requirements, as well as the submission process. Also, review the style guidelines, which cover formatting of references, abbreviations, units, and other grammatical requirements. *TAPPI Journal's* [author guidelines](#) and [style guidelines](#) are available on the website, as is a quick [final checklist](#) for manuscripts. Once all is in order, you proceed to the [submission portal](#).

If the paper is accepted for peer review, experts in the

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specific topic will critique the paper and make suggestions that may be either minor and major in nature. If you choose to address these comments in a revised version and the paper is accepted for publication, you may be asked to fill out other forms, like a publisher's agreement.

Creating a research paper from a presentation can be a rewarding task that benefits the industry and solidifies your expertise among your peers. It can be a valuable learning experience that leads to [future scientific work and more discoveries](#), as well as accolades. For example, each year *TAPPI Journal* bestows the *TAPPI Journal* Best Research Paper Award and Honghi Tran Prize, a monetary award of \$2,000. **TJ**

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