

Submit to the 2024 Centennial Convention Webinar: Strategies and Tips

October 4, 6 p.m. CDT

Webinar Transcript

[00:00:00.000]

Welcome to this webinar on submitting to the

[00:00:05.050]

2024 Sigma Tau Delta Centennial Convention,

[00:00:08.650]

the theme, In Flux, which will be April third, second, 2024 in St. Louis.

[00:00:14.614]

Make sure that your audio works.

[00:00:16.970]

Introduce yourself by typing your name and school in the chat box.

[00:00:20.890]

It'll be interesting to see there should be people from all over the place.

[00:00:25.840]

Your microphone will be muted

[00:00:28.280]

for the presentation, but there'll be time for question and answer at the end.

[00:00:31.810]

And so do place questions in the question and answer box.

[00:00:35.600]

We'll open the meeting for questions after the presentation.

[00:00:37.950]

I'll give you the signal for that,

[00:00:39.800]

and then we'll answer all the questions that you have.

[00:00:42.290]

I am Glen Brewster,

[00:00:44.330]

one of the convention chairs, and you will soon see some of the other

[00:00:49.270]

people working with us, Ami Comford, for example, and Carie King,

[00:00:53.680]

and some of the people from the central office, Elfi Gabriel, for example,

[00:00:57.470]

and Namon Kent, who is literally behind the scenes providing support for us today.

[00:01:03.810]

Again, this is our webinar on submitting to the Sigma Tau Delta Convention.

[00:01:08.800]

And covered in this webinar will be why to attend the convention,

[00:01:12.730]

the different academic submission types that you can provide and how to submit.

[00:01:18.520]

The convention,

[00:01:19.200]

some of you may have attended before, some of you may have not.

[00:01:22.170]

The convention every year brings together

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about 1,000 plus attendees, primarily students,

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but also dozens and dozens, up to 100 faculty sponsors and guests and alumni.

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The people who will be there will be

[00:01:35.470]

Sigma Tau Delta students, Sigma Kappa Delta,

[00:01:38.030]

who are our members from the community colleges, Sigma Tau Delta alumni,

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faculty advisors, and we usually have a good group of guest attendees as well.

[00:01:49.810]

So why attend the convention?

[00:01:51.520]

First and foremost, to present and be recognized by your peers

[00:01:55.690]

from around the country and to promote your own chapter as well.

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To hear paper presentations, roundtables,

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and other events that are going on, we have a really packed schedule,

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and there's going to be lots and lots of things for you to do.

[00:02:09.880]

You'll attend readings and workshops by featured authors.

[00:02:12.580]

You'll hear more about that in a few minutes.

[00:02:14.800]

You'll be able to participate in workshops of various kinds on things like

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professional development, on pedagogy, on creative writing.

[00:02:23.200]

And you'll be able to network

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and socialize with students and advisors from around the globe.

[00:02:27.240]

And many of the students who attend these

[00:02:28.890]

say that networking, getting to know people from around

[00:02:32.110]

the country is among the most valuable experiences.

[00:02:35.610]

So who is eligible to present?

[00:02:38.010]

Well, Sigma Tau Delta students,

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Sigma Tau Kappa Delta student members, alumni members, and also transfer students

[00:02:46.510]

who are often listed as provisional members of Sigma Tau Delta.

[00:02:50.200]

If you have questions about any of those,

[00:02:51.830]

those are the things that often come up at the Q&A session at the end.

[00:02:56.170]

So what can students submit?

[00:02:58.210]

They can submit a paper in any of the categories like original critical

[00:03:03.750]

essays, creative non-fiction, poetry collections, original prose, and so on.

[00:03:09.090]

You can also submit an additional paper

[00:03:12.110]

on The Common Reader, which this year is Then The War

[00:03:16.190]

and Selected Poems 2007- 2020 by Carl Phillips,

[00:03:20.440]

which recently won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry, so you need to read it.

[00:03:24.170]

You could also submit one additional submission or an additional submission

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for research in the round proposal, and we'll touch on each one of those

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briefly as we get to that part of the presentation as well.

[00:03:37.810]

So paper submissions, they're critical essays.

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So you would submit a complete paper,

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and at this stage, there will be no further revisions accepted.

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Keep that in mind.

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So you want to make sure that you have a faculty member, probably your chapter

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advisor looking over with you before you submit it.

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It needs to be no more than 2,000 words,

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and that does exclude title, works cited, and notes.

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You'll select from a topic list

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like Common Reader, Gender Studies, for example,

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and you'll submit a brief critical essay thesis statement along with it,

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and you'll choose keywords from a drop down menu that shows things like theme,

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genre, author, methodology, and a variety of others.

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For creative works, you may submit short stories or flash

[00:04:23.210]

fiction or fiction or drama or screenplay or non-fiction or prose, excuse me,

[00:04:29.470]

poetry, a collection of poems, or one longer poem.

[00:04:33.330]

The total word count.

[00:04:35.240]

So that if you do a collection of poems, for example, this question comes up a lot.

[00:04:38.920]

If you do a collection of poems, you still don't exceed the 2,000-word count.

[00:04:43.480]

So again, talk with one of your advisors

[00:04:45.710]

about the best way to submit and what works to submit.

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You will also submit a brief critical project statement.

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And again, you'll select keywords

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from a drop-down list that have things like theme and genre for you.

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We also, as I mentioned,

[00:04:59.590]

accept paper submissions, and you could do an additional submission

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on the Common Reader, which this year is the Pulitzer Prize

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winner Then the War and selected poems by Carl Phillips,

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a well-known poet who also happens to teach at Washington University nearby.

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You can submit one paper on the common reader.

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They can be submitted under any of the critical essay topics.

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You could do a critical essay

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on the poetry or you could do a creative writing genre.

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Students have chosen to do that often in the past.

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When you do this,

[00:05:28.590]

you'll also include an explanatory description, fewer than 100 words.

[00:05:32.840]

This simply explains the connection

[00:05:34.350]

between your own work and the common reader and some helpful tips.

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You want to start your submission now and you want to finish before October 23rd.

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October 23rd is the deadline and you'll

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receive multiple reminders about that, but it's good for you to note that as well.

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It's also good to note that you should start in the application

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form that's on the website as soon as possible because you can create your

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account and then you can save it, and then you can keep coming back to it.

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So that's a useful thing to know.

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You do want to ask your chapter advisor or another faculty to review your paper.

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I'm doing that for several of our students

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in our own chapter at this stage of the game as well,

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so that they can decide which of their papers to submit and make sure

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that they're submitting the best work that they possibly can.

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You want to make sure that you follow the formatting guidelines.

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You want to make sure that you choose a title that is 50 characters or less.

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You don't identify yourself on your paper.

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So if you do have a header,

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as most of us create when we're submitting a paper for a conference or

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that these will be anonymous reviews, and make sure that you don't go over

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the 2,000-word limit, excluding, title, work cited, and notes.

[00:06:48.250]

I should point out that sometimes people

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don't know in advance, but you will, that there are convention awards.

[00:06:54.980]

We give away a number of awards.

[00:06:56.800]

We gave away nearly \$12,000 awards last year at the convention 2023.

[00:07:02.450]

Those are announced and presented

[00:07:04.670]

at the awards luncheon, which is on Saturday, early afternoon.

[00:07:08.800]

Make sure that you account for that in your travel plans,

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that you stay and that you attend the awards luncheon.

[00:07:16.090]

There are awards of up to \$600 each,

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and you can see on the left a list of many of those.

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So make sure that you attend for that.

[00:07:25.920]

Even if you don't win a award,

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you want to be there to support some of your fellow students.

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Just as a couple of examples of some of the newer awards, we have the

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Stemmler/Dennis LGBT& awards that were created a couple

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of years ago by two long time chapter advisors.

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It honors active student members with the LGBTQIA+

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themed critical essays and creative works, and to be considered for the award when

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you are submitting your critical essay and/or creative or creative work that you

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make sure that you choose these keywords, and they will automatically be entered

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in the pool that will be considered for that award.

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We also have the Beth DeMeo Poetry Award,

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also named after a long-time faculty chapter advisor.

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It's given the critical essays that discuss lyric, narrative,

[00:08:18.670]

or dramatic poetry, and to be considered for that award as

[00:08:21.950]

well, you would simply select the genre keywords of poetry of various kinds.

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Again, if you choose those keywords,

[00:08:29.670]

you'll automatically be entered into that category to be considered for that award.

[00:08:34.850]

And there are others, but we just want to mention a couple.

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A question that often comes up for people

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who haven't attended convention is, what does a roundtable mean?

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So we're going to give you more examples that will be given out to you over

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the website and various other venues in the next couple of weeks.

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But a roundtable discussions are scheduled for 90 minutes.

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Those are ones where you come up with some

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ideas about some discussion on a topic that you find of interest.

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Later, you'll have a moderator who will be a faculty or an alumni member.

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The submitter, who is the primary contact

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for the roundtable, can be a student or alumni member or an advisor.

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So there's options there.

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And priority selection also will be given

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to proposals that include members from multiple chapters.

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So you may want to reach out to people you

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know from other chapters to see if they're interested in your particular topic.

[00:09:25.850]

And just some potential roundtable topics are the ones that are listed below.

[00:09:30.030]

It could be on the common reader, it could be on the convention theme In Flux.

[00:09:34.560]

There are ones that are on professional development.

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There are ones that are on specific topics

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like composition or rhetoric or literary themes or technology.

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Use your imagination and think about

[00:09:45.820]

the topics that you have become interested in that you may have done some research

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in your various classes or even outside of classes.

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For the document that you will submit, you will have a long abstract,

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which is only up to about 250 words about a paragraph.

[00:10:00.320]

You'll also submit a short paragraph, 50 words.

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As you may guess, these are things that will be featured in the program.

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And you'll also have a bibliography to show

[00:10:08.560]

the evidence of related research that will inform the discussion that you'll have

[00:10:12.150]

with the people who come to your roundtable.

[00:10:14.770]

We do have limited A/V needs.

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We're not in a university setting.

[00:10:20.430]

We're actually in a hotel, a conference center.

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And so we have limited A/V needs.

[00:10:26.250]

So we need to have an explanation for you of why you would need to use it.

[00:10:30.040]

And if you don't, that's perfectly fine as well.

[00:10:32.410]

And again, typically, you would list the three to five

[00:10:35.640]

participants and the moderators who are going to be part of your roundtable.

[00:10:38.850]

You also have research in the round proposals.

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This is a relatively new format that's been very popular.

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Only student members may submit for this.

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And the document for that will include your name, chapter name, email address,

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cell phone number, and a proposed research topic, up to 10 words, relatively limited.

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But it needs to be questions that will

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spark discussion on the topic, and those questions can be up to 50 words.

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So use your imagination.

[00:11:07.000]

Again, think about the kinds of things

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that you become interested in recently, and then you'll also provide a longer

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explanation, up to 250 words that gives information on your topic

[00:11:16.350]

and questions persuading the evaluators will be reviewing these and making

[00:11:20.920]

decisions about which ones are included, that this topic and these questions will

[00:11:24.720]

spark discussion and will reach a broad audience.

[00:11:27.130]

This has been a very popular format in times.

[00:11:31.130]

So how to submit?

[00:11:33.170]

You need to, again, start now, go online,

[00:11:37.010]

create your account so that you can save it, come back to it.

[00:11:40.970]

The website is at, and you can get access to.

[00:11:45.730]

Ex Ordo is the platform that we're using.

[00:11:48.610]

Make sure that you're also using an email

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that you'll still have access to through April 24.

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If you graduate in December,

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you're still eligible, but you want to make sure that we can get

[00:11:58.830]

access to you, and you want to save and complete later, you're in your account

[00:12:04.570]

and you'll provide the submissions are completed again by October 23rd.

[00:12:11.330]

A couple of weeks from now 5:00 PM, and that's Central Daylight Time.

[00:12:17.850]

So remember that that's Central daylight time, not Eastern time where I am.

[00:12:21.840]

Okay.

[00:12:22.890]

And then we're going to just go over very quickly.

[00:12:25.520]

What you're going to see when you start creating your account is the steps.

[00:12:28.920]

Again, you'll agree to terms of service.

[00:12:30.550]

You'll select your track.

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It's fairly straightforward.

[00:12:33.790]

Then you'll see the author information, your own information.

[00:12:38.290]

You'll be asked to enter your...

[00:12:40.840]

Excuse me, I jumped ahead.

[00:12:42.150]

You'll be asked to enter your title,

[00:12:44.230]

50 characters or fewer, and just the title there.

[00:12:48.890]

Then you'll give your information, again,

[00:12:51.580]

the kind that you will need to be able so that we can contact you later.

[00:12:56.450]

You will go through a series of steps

[00:12:59.210]

to provide the information about your submission, selecting from your list

[00:13:04.930]

of topics, your short description, and so on.

[00:13:07.450]

You will be asked to agree to a statement

[00:13:09.670]

of originality, which we amended recently to say, Please do not submit AI work.

[00:13:15.690]

We know that you're good English majors

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and good students, so that you wouldn't do that.

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But you'll upload your paper as a doc or a doc in the doc X format.

[00:13:26.010]

Make sure you're adhering to the guidelines.

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Make sure that you're reading carefully the guidelines for things like

[00:13:31.720]

the roundtable document and the research in the round document as well.

[00:13:35.170]

And you will submit all of these things by October 23rd, again,

[00:13:40.230]

a couple of weeks away, but it's 5:00 PM, Central Daylight time.

[00:13:44.570]

All of those are due, and then we are giving you deadlines

[00:13:48.000]

for when we are going to have them processed, have them read,

[00:13:50.880]

we have to submit them to evaluators from throughout the country.

[00:13:54.050]

But we hope to notify people so that they

[00:13:56.310]

can start planning toward the end of this semester before the semester is over.

[00:14:01.970]

And that way, you can start planning at the end of this semester or

[00:14:05.910]

by the beginning of next semester for your travel and all the other events

[00:14:10.560]

that you're going to be hearing about that are part of the convention.

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So that's a quick overview.

[00:14:15.670]

Remember that the registration runs then from January fourth through 17th.

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That's the beginning of the following semester.

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If your semester begins around the 17th, as ours does here where I am,

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then you want to make sure that you're in contact with your advisor and other

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people who are in charge of helping you do the registration process.

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But it's relatively cheap.

[00:14:37.030]

In fact, it's incredibly cheap.

[00:14:39.330]

If any of you have participated

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in professional conferences, you know that it's very

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expensive to attend a conference, but we hold the rates very, very low.

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So it's \$84 only for early registration, \$99 for faculty, alumni, and non-members.

[00:14:58.410]

And there is the additional \$25 for the Convention Awards luncheon,

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where you should attend because you are hoping, I assume,

[00:15:07.430]

to win one of those monetary awards and be recognized and have your picture taken as

[00:15:12.350]

well as one of the winners of one of the various Convention Awards.

[00:15:17.450]

And you must be registered, as I said,

[00:15:19.510]

by January 17th to be included in the program, and you'll hear more about

[00:15:23.950]

the program and ways to access it and those things as we move along.

[00:15:28.800]

Okay.

[00:15:29.250]

So now we have time, I think, for questions and answers.

[00:15:37.970]

You provide the questions.

[00:15:39.310]

We'll do our best to provide answers.

[00:15:42.210]

How many papers can we submit?

[00:15:43.770]

Sometimes I have to review this myself

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because it can be a little bit complicated.

[00:15:48.110]

It's not exactly algebra, but it's like that.

[00:15:51.050]

You can submit one,

[00:15:53.890]

either a critical paper or a creative work, plus a common reader.

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And you could also submit a roundtable or a research in the round.

[00:16:06.530]

Theoretically, you could submit up to three different kinds of works.

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That's unusual, but sometimes people do it.

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But again, it gives you possibilities.

[00:16:15.410]

There are a number of people who do submit to say, a critical paper.

[00:16:20.450]

Yes, research in the round.

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You need to put identifying documentation

[00:16:24.310]

in it because that's the way that we will be in touch with you because you'll be

[00:16:28.800]

receiving a little bit further information.

[00:16:30.670]

If you're accepted,

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you'll receive a little bit more information about the format,

[00:16:36.650]

about what to expect, about what materials to bring,

[00:16:39.430]

how to be prepared, and you'll have some conversation

[00:16:42.040]

with other people who are participating as well.

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Yes.

[00:16:45.080]

There are no processing fees in addition to the \$85.

[00:16:48.190]

In fact, this year, it used to be that we had the registration fee.

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This year, we decided to simplify things

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partially because those of you who are going to be getting money from your

[00:17:01.910]

chapter or money from your university, we are aware, we all work at universities,

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that in some cases, that complicated matters for reimbursement.

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So we included the processing fees in the \$85 this year for students.

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Actually, because there is so much demand,

[00:17:21.230]

because there are so many people who submit creative works,

[00:17:25.410]

we do ask that you make the hard decision about what creative work to submit.

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So that's why if you did a collection

[00:17:34.150]

of poems, for example, you would not also do creative non-fiction, for example.

[00:17:40.410]

I'm assuming you mean creative non-fiction as opposed to a critical essay.

[00:17:44.170]

And it's simply because we are aiming

[00:17:46.630]

to get as allow as many people to be able to present as possible.

[00:17:54.080]

How do you submit your poetry if you don't have a common theme?

[00:17:56.450]

This question comes up with my students all the time.

[00:17:59.830]

In, because they have created what they see is disparate kinds of poems in their

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creative writing classes, and they're not quite sure what to do with it.

[00:18:07.800]

I say, Well, come talk with me or talk with your creative writing teacher

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and talk about ways in which you can organize them around a common theme.

[00:18:17.840]

It might be something simple as love poem or anti-love poems.

[00:18:22.800]

I can remember those as specific examples.

[00:18:25.410]

So be creative yourself,

[00:18:28.210]

but also talk with your faculty advisors, with your own faculty,

[00:18:32.930]

and they will definitely be able to help you come up with a common theme.

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Again, this is a way for us to group these together and then turn them into panels

[00:18:42.690]

so that whenever you are presenting, you'll be among a group of students

[00:18:48.030]

who are reading work that is not the same, but at least has some of the same things.

[00:18:54.450]

That's the idea.

[00:18:55.840]

Does someone from a chapter have to submit for advisor and officers to attend?

[00:18:59.880]

Is there a number of students who are interested in this?

[00:19:01.120]

No. If a student does submit and they want

[00:19:05.830]

to present their work, then yes, they do have to attend.

[00:19:11.720]

But you will find if you if you come

[00:19:15.950]

to this convention, you will find that there are a number

[00:19:18.790]

of people there who, for example, may not have been accepted, but they submitted.

[00:19:23.640]

We often have students from our chapter.

[00:19:25.350]

We usually require our chapter students to at least submit.

[00:19:29.210]

But if they're not accepted,

[00:19:31.560]

we still help provide funding and support for them to travel.

[00:19:35.450]

And it's often the case that with smaller

[00:19:38.510]

chapters or maybe in some cases, new chapters,

[00:19:41.650]

those advisors and officers want to attend, get a sense of it,

[00:19:45.600]

and then they are absolutely the best ambassadors to go back to their school

[00:19:50.080]

and encourage their students to submit and become more active the following year.

[00:19:55.360]

And to help support them to travel to the next convention.

[00:19:59.280]

Can an alumnus who is not currently a student?

[00:20:01.410]

If you are alumni, yes, there are categories for alumni

[00:20:05.550]

submissions I would have to go back through and remind myself.

[00:20:10.170]

But in the critical paper

[00:20:12.590]

and in the creative fiction, excuse me, the creative writing categories,

[00:20:17.360]

I think that's accurate, but I would have to double check to make sure.

[00:20:21.880]

The reason I hesitate is I've been doing this for a long time,

[00:20:24.550]

and we sometimes have to, mainly because of numbers,

[00:20:27.430]

have to modify the requirements from time to time.

[00:20:33.450]

Maybe one of our other people who are here

[00:20:36.270]

who might have a better answer for that question can jump in.

[00:20:40.440]

Yeah.

[00:20:41.880]

How do I find people from other chapters to my roundtable?

[00:20:45.320]

One of the best ways to do that would be to find out who your regent is.

[00:20:51.630]

Each of you is a member in one of the six regions around the country.

[00:20:57.650]

I am in the Eastern Region.

[00:20:59.560]

Felicia Steel from the College of New Jersey is a very active regent.

[00:21:03.650]

You could go to the website and find out,

[00:21:06.170]

for one thing, what region you're in if you're not sure, then you could find out

[00:21:10.870]

who the Regent is, get in touch with that person and say,

[00:21:15.210]

I am trying to develop a roundtable on such and such a topic,

[00:21:19.250]

and that that agent will be happy to put out that information.

[00:21:24.040]

Sometimes he or she will already know people who are interested,

[00:21:27.710]

who are already looking for other people to participate, and that would be a great

[00:21:32.150]

way to meet people from other chapters if you don't know them already.

[00:21:36.250]

You could also look up people.

[00:21:39.010]

You could find out who are people

[00:21:41.790]

from chapters or where chapters are in your region or in your state.

[00:21:46.550]

I'm in Massachusetts.

[00:21:47.690]

We're close to Connecticut.

[00:21:49.240]

Several years ago, we simply looked up a couple of the local

[00:21:52.070]

chapters and got in touch with them, and we decided we want to have a meeting

[00:21:56.110]

where we met at a local city and had a pizza party, for example.

[00:21:59.790]

That would be a way to find out.

[00:22:02.120]

That would probably be the simplest way to get in touch with your region.

[00:22:12.480]

I, again, have to double check sometimes

[00:22:14.960]

myself because I can't always remember the categories.

[00:22:17.400]

I'm trying to flip back through my notes.

[00:22:19.450]

But as I understand it, yes,

[00:22:21.250]

personal essays, memoirs are quite common for the creative writing category.

[00:22:26.770]

Honestly, I can remember several of them,

[00:22:29.710]

including some students from my own chapter over the years who have won awards

[00:22:34.360]

because of the quality of their personal essays or memoirs.

[00:22:39.080]

Every year, people submit on a wide,

[00:22:42.190]

wide range of themes and broad areas for their critical essays.

[00:22:47.490]

Often, people are submitting work

[00:22:49.600]

that they have done for their very classes,

[00:22:52.560]

which is one of the reasons why if you attend, you want to go to as many

[00:22:55.950]

different sessions as possible and enlarge your own understanding

[00:22:59.770]

of how broad the English discipline is and how interesting the work that other

[00:23:04.990]

students are doing around the country and give you lots and lots of ideas about

[00:23:09.240]

things you're going to read when you come home.

[00:23:11.570]

But yes, this year, we chose the theme In Flux,

[00:23:15.530]

and if you'll go to the website and read again the description about that,

[00:23:20.360]

we were mindful that this is the 100th anniversary.

[00:23:23.760]

If I haven't said that enough, I'll try to say it a couple more times.

[00:23:27.010]

This is the 100th anniversary of our society.

[00:23:30.070]

It was founded in 1924.

[00:23:32.210]

We were trying to think of ways in which we could get people to look back to 1924.

[00:23:37.840]

In the mini essay that I wrote about

[00:23:40.570]

the connection to the past and what was going on in 1924,

[00:23:45.600]

a lot of interesting stuff that we decided that we also wanted

[00:23:51.070]

to make sure that we were reflecting what was happening in 2024.

[00:23:55.320]

We used the theme In Flux, which, of course, means undergoing change

[00:24:01.170]

because that seemed to be the most appropriate way to characterize not only

[00:24:05.690]

how the English discipline, very broadly defined,

[00:24:10.450]

has developed over the years, but the way in which it's evolving now

[00:24:15.070]

very rapidly under pressures of all kinds and under very interesting circumstances.

[00:24:21.050]

So if you could work in some reference

[00:24:23.810]

to the theme In Flux, we try to group those papers together as

[00:24:30.550]

well so that we give them serious attention.

[00:24:33.360]

And if any of the other convention chairs or chapter advisors who are here would

[00:24:37.310]

like to jump into the... And again, if you have questions later,

[00:24:41.690]

feel free to go to the website, particularly the Convention website.

[00:24:45.840]

There is an email address there where you can send questions.

[00:24:48.750]

We get lots of those as the process goes forward.

[00:24:52.450]

Send in your questions, and we'll answer those in as timely a way as we can.

[00:24:57.890]

I do see a question asking about how a script is presented.

[00:25:03.970]

I'm assuming by that you mean if you get,

[00:25:06.050]

say, a critical paper or say, a short story accepted, how do you present it?

[00:25:12.640]

You would present it as you would at a professional conference.

[00:25:15.450]

That is, you would have a copy of your paper, you will be assigned to a panel,

[00:25:20.290]

you will have a chair, and you will have a moderator.

[00:25:25.150]

You will have a chair who is a student.

[00:25:27.270]

So we encourage you to volunteer for that, who knows in advance who the people are,

[00:25:33.670]

who gets there early, meets the people, make sure that that person knows how

[00:25:39.550]

to pronounce your name as best he or she can,

[00:25:42.570]

and then introduces each person briefly, and then the student reads the paper.

[00:25:49.360]

Now, I encourage people to not read in a monotone and to do some of the things

[00:25:54.750]

that those of us who do professional conferences do, which is

[00:25:58.690]

make sure that you have a copy of your script, maybe a couple of copies with you

[00:26:03.150]

in case one gets lost or gets coffee spilled on it,

[00:26:06.210]

but has a couple of copies that are in very large print so that you can read

[00:26:12.070]

and you can write notes and you can write marginal notes to yourself like

[00:26:15.730]

slow down or how to pronounce a word, and that you use that and that you

[00:26:21.650]

practice in advance to make sure that your time is in there.

[00:26:25.360]

As you may guess, the 2,000-word limit

[00:26:28.120]

is designed so that will be able to read their paper or their story or

[00:26:32.790]

the collection of poems within the time allotted so that the other

[00:26:36.790]

members of your panel can also have time to present their work as well.

[00:26:42.210]

So that's basically how that works.

[00:26:44.880]

The roundtables and the research in the round are a little bit different.

[00:26:48.170]

But again, the more of a script that you have,

[00:26:51.770]

the more of an outline that you have, the better able you will be able to do it.

[00:26:55.890]

I always tell students it's like the oral reports I asked them to do,

[00:26:59.650]

that even if I'm asked them to speak ad hoc, that they need to have careful

[00:27:04.110]

notes so that whenever they are moving through their different points that they

[00:27:09.080]

are always well prepared and don't get lost.

[00:27:12.280]

I'll say a question. How is a play presented?

[00:27:16.440]

We don't have the resources, and we're not really set up

[00:27:22.320]

for presentation of a play in three dimensions, so to speak.

[00:27:27.410]

So there, if you had,

[00:27:29.270]

and this is the case, that students will have a script

[00:27:33.210]

of a short-ish one-act play, for example, or a scene.

[00:27:39.690]

Often students ask about the novels that they're working on.

[00:27:43.250]

And so we suggest, again, that you work with your advisor,

[00:27:46.230]

you work with a faculty member, tell them about the limitations.

[00:27:49.730]

And again, it's because of the way in which the panels work.

[00:27:52.840]

You are one of several people who'll be presenting, and you do need to be mindful

[00:27:57.310]

of the time so that you don't get over and just cut into someone else's time

[00:28:01.650]

and so that there will be enough time for lively discussion at the end.

[00:28:07.050]

But you would read to play in that way.

[00:28:11.210]

I'm trying to remember how people have done it in the past.

[00:28:14.710]

Similar to the way that you might read

[00:28:16.830]

a short story, you would simply indicate who the speaker was.

[00:28:21.170]

I see a question that I think maybe part of it got cut off.

[00:28:26.320]

Outside of the theme, can we still submit?

[00:28:28.640]

I'm assuming that if you're saying outside

[00:28:30.230]

of the convention theme In Flux, can we still submit other works?

[00:28:34.320]

Yes.

[00:28:35.080]

Again, the majority of the students are going to be submitting work that

[00:28:42.400]

they have done for classes, often, quite frankly,

[00:28:45.910]

for classes before this semester, because as we're all aware,

[00:28:49.990]

the deadlines for most of your papers for this semester or bigger projects

[00:28:54.120]

are later than the convention deadline of October 23rd.

[00:28:58.600]

So that I tell my students, for example,

[00:29:00.750]

don't try to submit something from this semester unless it's something

[00:29:04.870]

that already is complete and that they can revise before that October 23rd deadline.

[00:29:10.600]

But instead,

[00:29:11.690]

probably look back at work that they have done in the spring semester or even

[00:29:15.550]

earlier, that they can then carefully revise, go over with a faculty member

[00:29:20.950]

and submit it, and that way they'll be able to answer all

[00:29:24.630]

the questions you're asked about the work you're submitting.

[00:29:29.320]

Can you use one of the keywords as a theme for a creative non-fiction?

[00:29:32.600]

Absolutely.

[00:29:33.390]

If you find that useful, if it spurs your imagination, you can use one of those.

[00:29:38.120]

You might even look at the list to get some ideas.

[00:29:41.290]

The list, as you may guess,

[00:29:43.320]

are from successful themes that we have grouped panels around in the past,

[00:29:49.290]

which means they came from the kinds of papers and creative works

[00:29:54.890]

and roundtables and others that people have submitted in the past.

[00:29:58.840]

That might be a really good way

[00:30:01.010]

of thinking about some possible themes that you could use for your thesis

[00:30:09.730]

or for describing your collection of poems or for your creative non-fiction.

[00:30:16.970]

Yeah, that would be good.

[00:30:18.480]

I think this is a question that I saw

[00:30:20.110]

on the chat and I was bringing up a minute ago about how play is presented.

[00:30:24.010]

So a play would be presented as a script.

[00:30:27.320]

And again, you have the time limitations,

[00:30:30.290]

the word limitations, 2,000 words, because you'll be part of a session where

[00:30:36.190]

we have three to four other students presenting.

[00:30:39.410]

So that's why we have to be so careful about the time so that everybody gets

[00:30:43.270]

a chance to present and have discussion at the end.

[00:30:47.810]

So with a play, you would treat it as a script and similarly to the way you

[00:30:53.030]

would a section from a novel or from a short story.

[00:30:56.290]

If your work is selected, you aren't required to present it

[00:30:59.730]

at the conference in the sense that we will force you to show up in St.

[00:31:03.830]

Louis and read your work.

[00:31:05.570]

But we will ask you if your work is selected, if you plan on attending,

[00:31:12.050]

because only works that are accepted and then have a real live human there

[00:31:19.950]

to present it will be actually presented at the convention.

[00:31:24.250]

So if you're submitting your work, we are assuming that you are eager to come

[00:31:30.290]

to the convention to participate just like any other professional convention,

[00:31:34.730]

and it will be a great opportunity for you.

[00:31:37.410]

I know that students are often nervous about it.

[00:31:40.040]

I always tell my students that I'm a professional.

[00:31:42.280]

As you can tell, I've been doing this for a long time.

[00:31:44.810]

I participate in conferences of various

[00:31:47.290]

kinds almost every year, and every year I'm just as nervous

[00:31:51.450]

as I was the very first time I did it probably when I was a graduate student.

[00:31:55.810]

But that's okay because you know

[00:31:57.830]

that going in, you get there, you start presenting your work,

[00:32:02.250]

you have a great time, you meet other people,

[00:32:04.750]

you have wonderful discussions, and you're really excited about it.

[00:32:08.120]

And my students always say they can't wait

[00:32:10.550]

until next year so that they can present their work again.

[00:32:13.770]

You cannot submit more than once in the same category.

[00:32:19.080]

And that's a good question because

[00:32:20.760]

there are some contests where you might be able to do that, for example.

[00:32:24.050]

But again, it comes back to, honestly, how successful this convention has been.

[00:32:30.210]

As I said, this is our 100th anniversary.

[00:32:33.840]

I've been attending conventions for over 20 years.

[00:32:36.880]

When I first attended the convention,

[00:32:38.390]

there were probably three, maybe 400 student presenters.

[00:32:42.360]

We had plenty of time.

[00:32:43.930]

Now we have 800 to 1,000 student

[00:32:47.550]

presenters every year, so we're glad of that success.

[00:32:51.290]

But what it means is that we have to be careful.

[00:32:54.350]

And so if

[00:32:57.210]

our goal is to allow as many students to present as possible,

[00:33:02.080]

we've had to restrict some of the submission requirements.

[00:33:06.120]

Therefore, you can only submit in one of the categories.

[00:33:10.600]

But remember that there are multiple categories that you could submit in.

[00:33:14.810]

For example, you could do a critical paper and you

[00:33:18.550]

could also do something on the common reader,

[00:33:22.080]

or you could do something for a roundtable in addition to your creative piece,

[00:33:29.010]

or you could also do a research in the round in addition to your critical paper.

[00:33:33.890]

So think about those options.

[00:33:35.600]

Again, you might want to talk to other students in your chapter.

[00:33:38.110]

You might want to talk to your faculty

[00:33:42.230]

advisor about those different possibilities.

[00:33:45.320]

So it looks like we have no more questions at the moment.

[00:33:49.010]

I take that that people are mulling over these many different possibilities,

[00:33:53.830]

this staggering variety of things that you could submit.

[00:33:57.690]

I hope that you're also getting excited

[00:33:59.950]

about the many events and the people you will meet

[00:34:04.600]

and the experiences you'll have if you attend the convention in

[00:34:08.670]

St. Louis in April.

[00:34:10.610]

But also remember that you can't present

[00:34:14.160]

at the convention if you don't submit your work by the deadline, October 23rd.

[00:34:21.000]

The best thing you can do now,

[00:34:22.440]

if you're mulling over that possibility and thinking about what paper or what

[00:34:26.150]

other work to submit, the best thing you can do is go

[00:34:29.510]

into the website and create your account now, save it and then go back to it,

[00:34:35.770]

talk to your teachers, talk to your faculty advisor, talk to your

[00:34:40.610]

fellow members of your chapter, get in touch with your regent if you want

[00:34:44.870]

to find people to work with you on a roundtable from different chapters.

[00:34:49.570]

And so think about all the different ways that you can submit your work.

[00:34:55.570]

And you will also pay attention to the varied messages that we're going

[00:35:00.670]

to be sending out from Sigma Tau Delta in the regular updates that you get.

[00:35:08.290]

Make sure that you check the various

[00:35:11.050]

social media because there'll be updates there.

[00:35:13.810]

There will be student leaders who will be reading portions of the common reader.

[00:35:19.610]

They'll also be tossing out ideas,

[00:35:22.410]

telling you about ways in which they have participated in the past.

[00:35:26.130]

They'll also perhaps be convincing you to try to be like them, in other words,

[00:35:31.450]

to submit, as they did in the past, maybe even to apply for one of the student

[00:35:36.470]

leader positions that are always available at the convention.

[00:35:39.910]

There are elections held there

[00:35:42.040]

for the student leaders for the following year, and you might be one of those lucky

[00:35:46.050]

students who are helping us plan for the convention for the following year.

[00:35:50.960]

So if you do have further questions,

[00:35:52.670]

again, go to the website, look up the information.

[00:35:57.270]

There's a variety of information there.

[00:35:59.270]

We're constantly adding information to it.

[00:36:01.720]

We added some more information today about

[00:36:04.550]

additional speakers that we're going to be having and events that are going on.

[00:36:08.650]

You might also want to attend some of the regional conferences that are going on.

[00:36:13.760]

Thank you, Carie,

[00:36:14.630]

for reminding me of that, that you can also find on the website.

[00:36:18.720]

So explore the English.Org website in general that Sigma Tau Delta has.

[00:36:23.790]

It's extremely extensive. There are many,

[00:36:26.630]

many opportunities for scholarships and awards even outside of the convention.

[00:36:30.890]

But if you'll explore the convention

[00:36:32.830]

website, you'll find that it might answer some of your questions.

[00:36:36.600]

But if you have further questions that you want to ask,

[00:36:39.160]

do get in touch with us through the email address that we monitor regularly.

[00:36:44.200]

And as I said, we'll be putting up additional information

[00:36:46.910]

and sending out additional information in the weeks to come.

[00:36:50.450]

So we're really looking forward to seeing your submissions.

[00:36:54.290]

We're seeing some already.

[00:36:56.330]

We expect that we'll get many more as we

[00:36:58.750]

get closer to the deadline again, October 23rd, 5:00 PM, Central Daylight Time.

[00:37:05.570]

Keep a memory in that.

[00:37:06.890]

But start your account soon.

[00:37:09.330]

Think about talk with other people from your chapter and consider this

[00:37:15.270]

wonderful, wonderful opportunity that you'll have.