

AMS Lecture Workshopping Program (LWP)

Congratulations on being invited to give a plenary lecture at an AMS Sectional Meeting in the Southeast! This is both an honor and a responsibility. You have been selected not only because of your considerable success as a researcher, but also because of your reputation as an excellent speaker. Because your lecture will be attended by many conference participants, it behooves you (and the AMS) to make your talk as accessible, informative, and inspiring as possible.

The aim of the program is to offer a sounding board, and to help you refine your lecture through the various stages of development so that it will appeal to as many attendees as possible. Workshopping benefits all speakers, regardless of their level of experience. *Agreeing to workshop your talk is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of humility, vulnerability, and strength.*

What follows is one possible framework for the workshopping process. We emphasize that workshopping is not one-size-fits all. We will work to accommodate whatever practice works best for the speaker. No part of the workshopping is meant to be prescriptive. We want each speaker to be themselves, and for the talk to represent the speaker's way of thinking and being.

Step 1: Big picture (~3–2 months out). Meet at the start of the process to discuss the general shape of the talk. Who is the audience? What are the aims? What is the big picture and main takeaway/theme? Which main result(s) and open questions should be emphasized? Also discuss the title and abstract, keeping in mind the importance of broad appeal.

Step 2: Storyboard (~2–1 months out). Meet to discuss a draft storyboard for the lecture. The talk might be divided into sections. There should be a proposed set of slides, each with a title, and summary of what will be on the slide. Discussion of how well the storyboard addresses the big picture goals from Step 1.

Step 3: Rough draft (~4–2 weeks out). Meet to discuss a first draft. Here the slides should be populated with the essential content, perhaps not typeset or stylized, and perhaps lacking figures. Attention will be paid to what adds to (or subtracts from) the main aims, such as the amount of content, the level of the material, and the focus on the big picture.

Step 4: Final draft (~2–1 weeks out). Meet to discuss a (nearly) final draft. We will revisit the questions from Step 3. Attention will also be paid to the fine details and style of the slides and the presentation as a whole. If the speaker prefers, a practice talk might be given.

A member of the workshopping committee will be in touch to schedule meetings. Again, the program is flexible to meet your needs; every speaker is different and prepares differently. We look forward to working with you!