

## **THE DISCUSSANT'S ROLE** **For 'Full Presentation' papers**

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The duties of the **Discussant** include the following:

1. You should receive copies of the papers to be presented in your session in advance of the session from the Division Chair (please contact the Chair or the Program Chair if there are any problems). Please read these papers carefully and come prepared to comment on the papers. These comments can include, but need not be limited to **constructive** criticism about the research questions addressed, the theoretical foundations established, the methodologies employed, the analyses and results presented, and the implications derived. You may also want to indicate where you believe the papers make contributions to the broader stream of literature or how the papers open up new perspectives. Many discussants also find it helpful to highlight the interrelationships among the papers presented. Feel free to send your comments to the authors prior to the conference.
  
2. **Importantly, the bulk of your time as discussant should be spent stimulating audience interest in the subject and the papers. Whenever possible, we encourage you to assume the role of devil's advocate, provoking discussion among the session's presenters and between the presenters and the audience. We encourage you to use as a measure of your effectiveness the extent to which you engaged others in an open discussion and/or stimulate audience interest in the subject. Thus, rather than using your allotted time to conduct a one way presentation about the papers, we encourage you to use the bulk of your time to highlight controversial issues that will stimulate a dialogue among those in attendance.**  
**As this description suggests, preparation in advance and attentiveness during the session are two keys to serving successfully in the role of discussant. Please help us make the program sessions as meaningful as possible by fulfilling this role effectively. Discussants should be as well prepared as the presenters and therefore the use of audiovisuals is highly recommended.**
  
3. On the day of your session, show up to the room 5-10 minutes before the session begins. Identify yourself to the session Chairperson in advance, and note any changes in your affiliation of which the Chairperson may not be aware.
  
4. As discussant you have been allocated **10-15 minutes per paper**. Please try to keep your remarks limited to this amount of time so that ample time is left for audience participation.