

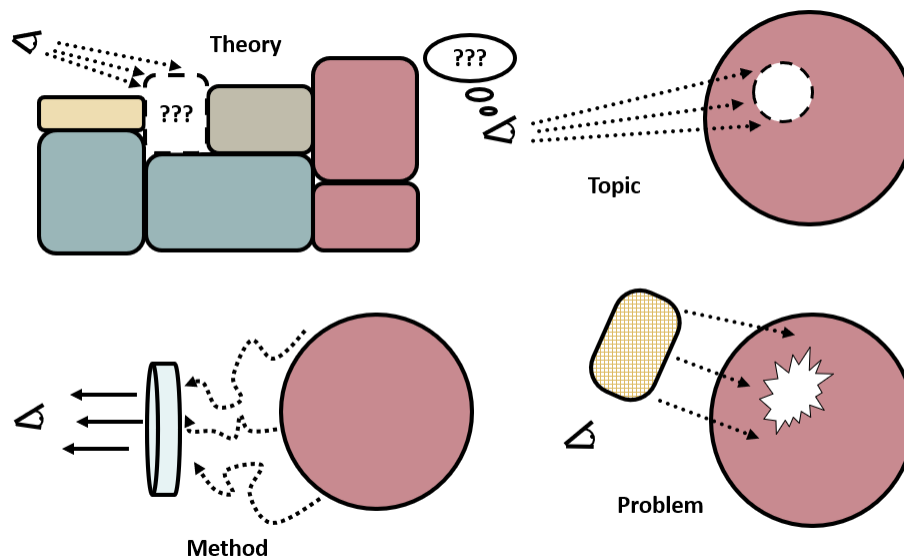
Adapting Your Work For Bigger Things

Seminar Paper → Conference Paper → Publication

Although seminar papers are great places to start workshoping your arguments, they are often too parochial—too narrowly focused; too narrowly tailored to a specific reader—to submit to broader audiences. This handout will give you some suggestions for how to reconceptualize your work and adapt your existing papers for new audiences and venues. Pay particular attention to the guiding questions that we start with; there isn't one way to do this, so a lot of it comes down to how you want to present your work (and yourself) to the world.

Ways to Make a Contribution

The first thing is to consider the different ways that your paper attempts to contribute to some broader conversation. Though there are many ways to contribute, the four most common are probably by (1) developing your discipline's **theoretical** frameworks, (2) adding to the understanding of a particular **topic/subject**, (3) expanding the **methodological** toolkit of your field, and (3) contributing a solution to a pressing **problem**.



Questions to ask yourself about your contribution:

What are the major topics/subjects that your work touches on and can it be used to understand other, similar/related topics?

Does your work build-on, complicate, refute, or apply (or something else) existing theory?

What is the timely significance of your work? If you had to adapt it for public presentation, what situation would you focus on?

Do you use any new or innovative methodologies in your paper? Do you apply an established methodology in a unique way?

Keywording your Contribution

For each of the following categories, brainstorm keywords that you would use to describe your project:

Topic/Subject	Theory	Method	Problem/Solution