

Going Public: Joining the Larger Conversation

There are several ways to make your work public that accomplish the larger goals of SoTL described in the “[Going Public](#)” section of the SoTL Guide.

Journals: Disciplinary or Multidisciplinary?

You’ll need to decide where you want to submit your article: a disciplinary journal that publishes pedagogical pieces, a SoTL journal that published pieces for a multidisciplinary readership, or an edited book.¹

Publishing within Your Discipline

To find the discipline-specific journals that publish essays about teaching, first check with your major professional organization. Next, you’ll find a few lists of discipline-specific SoTL-friendly journals compiled by various libraries by clicking the “SoTL Journals” tab on the [SoTL Research Guide](#) prepared by Vanderbilt University’s Center for Teaching. (The Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning will have a Research Guide in 2016.) Since each of these lists is incomplete, take the time to look through all of them.

Publishing in a SoTL Journal

To find the top SoTL journals, click the “SoTL Journals” tab on the Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching’s [SoTL Research Guide](#).

Whichever journal you choose, read its submission guidelines carefully first to make sure your topic is appropriate and then to identify its length requirements, citation style, deadlines, and submission process.

Conferences

As in many disciplines, SoTL practitioners regularly share their work at conferences. These conferences typically feature panels of individual presenters, panels of presenters who’ve worked together on a similar project or project type, and poster sessions. (Unlike some disciplines, the poster is a highly valued genre in SoTL, rich with idea exchange, project reviews, and networking. Some poster sessions display both completed projects and those not quite finished—indicated as such.) Some also include roundtable discussions, pre-organized but less structured conversations about a topic with a few people serving as the conversation starters, based on their own research or inquiry.

Often, SoTL practitioners present at conferences before writing a manuscript for publication, as part of the process of inviting peer feedback and review. Others, however, present completed, polished projects at these conferences, so there’s an effective mix.

To find a list of the main SoTL conferences in North America, see [this page](#).

¹ To publish a chapter in an edited book, you typically respond to a call for proposal or chapters. In this case, the editor will guide you through the process.