



## CONFERENCE CONTENT *(the material delivered)*

### My conference materials will:

- further my agenda
- assist my research or intellectual development
- gather dust in my office
- meet the hotel trash can
- validate my vacation to my employer

### The keynote speaker:

- was the ultimate in hype
- gave me purpose
- validated our profession
- prevented my suicide
- is someone I have admired for a long time
- put me to sleep
- was a salesman
- was very sexy

### Session titles:

- delivered the goods
- were intimidating
- were written by an ad agency
- were for a different conference
- were very trendy
- didn't make sense

### This Organization:

- exceeds my expectations
- looks good on my resumé
- feeds my soul
- makes me proud to be a member
- needs new blood
- meets my needs
- is run by grad students

### The best part of this conference was:

- seeing old friends
- new connections
- stimulating sessions
- professional recognition
- I was paid to participate
- the book I read on the plane
- the vendor fair
- the hotel bar
- the hotel TV
- time off work
- time away from home

## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE *(the environment)*

### The coffee was:

- bitter water
- luke warm
- excellent
- I went to McDonald's / Starbucks / Peet's
- mud
- cold
- not available after 2 pm

### The facilities were:

- freezing
- smelly
- stained
- flooded
- exotic
- suffocating
- worn
- futuristic
- empty
- noisy
- ballrooms
- beige
- cutting edge
- corporate
- without art

### Session Presenters:

- were inspirational
- satisfied my conference experience
- presented my research / stole my idea!
- had their technology fail
- read their papers to a sleeping audience
- were inarticulate
- were arrogant idiots
- had a limited vocabulary
- were bored by their own research
- thought their ideas were new
- spoke to an increasingly small audience
- repeated themselves endlessly
- enlightened me
- exposed my assumptions
- made me aware I am outdated
- employed the entertainment factor

### Sessions I attended:

- will have immediate application in my career
- never got to the questions from the audience
- will retain their poignancy through time
- had a lame discussion
- were missing a presenter I came to see
- seemed like undergraduate presentations
- were on a topic different from their title

## NETWORKING *(career mobility)*

### My networking experience was affected by:

- my appearance
- my companion(s)
- my social skills
- my gender
- my colleagues
- the status of my institution

### My recognition factor:

- my technology affected my opportunities for attention
- my peers acknowledged me appropriately
- I was recognized by important people
- I felt significant around important players
- I am an important player
- people looked right through me
- they only looked at my chest

### My opening lines:

- impress
- seem shallow
- are smart
- were brilliant
- put off
- are unintelligible
- evoke laughter
- didn't materialize

### My schmooze factor:

- successful
- disgusting
- I am language savvy
- I am brilliant
- I am a bore
- I was ignored
- I make a lasting impression
- I was surrounded by beautiful people
- I am really good
- I avoided important people
- I am inarticulate
- I found myself isolated
- I make no impression
- I was in high demand

### My attire was:

- suitable
- fine
- student
- worn
- dated
- expensive
- professional
- embarrassing
- creative
- odd
- unusual
- so me

## CONFERENCE TIPS *(personal functionality)*

### Next time I would pack the following:

- bathing suit
- blue jeans
- power suit
- evening clothes
- athletic gear
- more
- more black
- less
- sexy underwear
- toothbrush

### Next time I will remember to:

- travel alone
- arrive early at receptions to fill up on free food and drink
- not stay at a cheap isolating hotel
- attend at least one session to the very end
- not take free drinks from insufferable bores
- not put my bar tab on the University credit card
- put more effort into networking
- take notes

## PERSONAL RELEVANCE *(my experience)*

- I had a good time
- I would have preferred to stay home
- I added an important person to my list of encounters
- I should have skipped more conference events and explored the city
- Meaning Maker has changed my life forever
- I was lonely

### Former classmates/colleagues/mentors appeared:

- old
- passé
- impressive
- successful
- in-the-know
- stuck

### My concern over seeing a former

- lover
- employer
- teacher
- was validated