

# Making a Conference Presentation about the EiE Curriculum

Are you considering making a presentation about EiE or facilitating an EiE workshop at a state, regional, or national education conference? This document will help you develop your conference proposal.

## What to present:

We suggest you propose to present a hands-on engineering or technology activity. Our typical “go-to” activities are 1) the “Tech in a Bag” activity and 2) the “Tower Power” activity that are featured at the beginning of every EiE workshop.

- Participants spend 45 minutes going through an activity
- Then discuss the benefits that result from engineering at the elementary level

Click [here](#) to download presentations you can use to facilitate a conference presentation or workshop.

## Structure of proposal:

The text blocks below are taken from the EiE PD Guide and the EiE website. You may use any or all of this text to describe your presentation and how it supports STEM education.

### Use one of the following:

**“What Is Technology?” (Tech in a Bag):** “Participants will engage in activity where they examine familiar, everyday objects; they develop better understanding of the term “technology” and make the connection between technologies and the engineers who design them.”

**“What Is Engineering?” (Tower Power):** “Participants will engage in an engineering design challenge (building a tower) using simple materials. This activity helps participants to see themselves as engineers and to relate to their problem-solving strategies to their engineering design process.”

### Then add:

“Through these experiences and the ensuing discussions, participants will have a chance to explore the unifying, core content involved in all EiE materials—the nature of technology and engineering, the Engineering Design Process, how they relate, and the importance of setting a relevant context for design challenges. In addition, we hope

Continued on page 2 ►

Structure of proposal, continued

participants will get a taste of student-centered teaching and learning and experience the value of open-ended questioning as a way to allow students to form their own understandings.”

To describe how the EiE curriculum supports STEM education and the conference theme, use any of the following paragraphs:

“Children engineer informally all the time; they are fascinated with building things, and with taking things apart to see how they work. By encouraging these explorations in elementary school, we can keep these interests alive. Additionally, when children engage naturally in the design process, describing their activities as ‘engineering’ can help them develop positive associations with engineering and increase their desire to pursue such activities in the future.”

“Engineering projects integrate other disciplines. Engaging students in hands-on, real-world engineering experiences can enliven math and science and other content areas. Engineering projects can motivate students to learn math and science concepts by illustrating relevant applications.”

“Engineering fosters problem-solving skills, including problem formulation, iteration, testing of alternative solutions, and evaluation of data to guide decisions.”

“Engineering embraces project-based learning, encompasses hands-on construction, and sharpens children’s abilities to function in three dimensions—all skills that are important for prospering in the modern world.”

“Learning about engineering will increase students’ awareness of and access to scientific and technical careers. The number of American citizens pursuing engineering is decreasing. Early introduction to engineering can encourage many capable students, especially girls and minorities, to consider it as a career and enroll in the necessary science and math courses in high school.”

“Engineering and technological literacy are necessary for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As our society increasingly depends on engineering and technology, our citizens need to understand these fields.”

Questions about your  
conference proposal?

Contact us!  
eiepd@mos.org



**Engineering is Elementary®**  
Museum of Science, Boston  
1 Science Park  
Boston, MA 02114  
Phone: 617 589-0230  
Email: [eie@mos.org](mailto:eie@mos.org)  
[eie.org](http://eie.org)