

In-Person Lightning Talk

The in-person lightning talk format is open to all disciplines and offers a chance to communicate your research to a live audience. Lightning talks are brief, informative snapshots of your research followed by time for Q&A.

Tips & Tricks for In-Person Lightning Talks

- Lightning talks are typically ~5 minutes long, followed by a couple of minutes for Q&A. Presenters will be organized by subject or group and will be scheduled at a specific time and room in the Davis Center (4th Floor).
- A lightning talk is not meant to describe every detail of your project, but instead, gives an overview and highlights important findings or information.
- Keep your introduction and conclusion brief, to the point, and similar. You want your audience to leave feeling they've learned something and a conclusion is a good opportunity to draw them back to what they've learned.
- The bulk of your presentation should be on your key points and evidence or focused on one point in particular. Try to hone your presentation to suit your time limit, audience, and field.
- Include no more than 2 slides with visuals that supplement your talk. Keep slides minimalistic and avoid too much text.
- Allow yourself plenty of time to practice your lightning talk. Five minutes go by quickly! Presenters will be kept on track by the session moderator who will ensure we stick to the schedule.
- Plan for questions! Your talk is likely briefer than what you would have written in a paper, so there will always be things you had to leave out and you may be asked about.
- Remember, the people in the audience are interested to hear what you have to say. Breathe and look at your audience - they are likely excited by your subject and want to engage. Relax and remember that you are among colleagues, not judges.