

# Lightning Talks: Prepare for Fun

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# What is a Lightning Talk?

- A brief presentation (5 minutes)
  - It may contain 1 slides or twenty
  - Can include multi-media (such as a video)
  - Rule: Only 5 minutes!
  - Cut-off at 5 minutes – usually a timer alarms
  - Slides are PRE-Loaded on computer
  - **GRAB your audiences attention!!!**
- *Lightning talks, first pioneered at software industry conferences, are an engaging means of communicating science to specialist and non-specialist audiences alike.*

Source: <http://brainmattersvancouver.ca/schedule2/#lightningtalks>

## Why use this format?

- Allows presenters to present 1-2 main ideas
- Challenges presenters to “get to the point”
- Allows audience members to learn about a range of topics in a short amount of time
- Gives more people an opportunity to present their ideas

## How do I start?

- Outline what you want to say, then reduce, reduce,....
- Boil it down to 1 or 2 main ideas (or key research findings)
- DO NOT get caught up in the background/set-up
  - Think about the **minimum** amount you need to say to “set-up” the 1 or 2 main ideas
- Practice the talk a few times (easy, since it is so short!)
- Get feedback from colleagues on the slides – make them clean and clear

# QUESTIONS