

Grad SLAM FAQs

Q Do I have to have my talk finalized to attend a workshop or coaching session?

A No, feel free to attend any preparation sessions you wish without a completed talk.
We are here to help you work through your presentation and provide you with assistance.

Q Does my talk have to be exactly 3 minutes? Will I be penalized for being under/over?

A For the *first* round, we are more lenient but try to stay within 15 seconds under/over 3 minutes.
For the *final* round, we may deduct points for being more than 5 seconds under/over 3 minutes.

Q When do you start timing us?

A The time starts when you engage your audience. This could be when you begin speaking, a gesture or the playing of an audio clip. Contact Grad SLAM *staff* if you have specific questions.

Q What audience should I be gearing my talk towards?

A You should be gearing your talk towards a general audience. Help us understand what you study and why it matters on a broader scale than the microscopic nuances.

Q What if I am worried or nervous about speaking in front of people?

A Come to a *workshop*! This event is designed to serve YOU as the researcher.
We have designed many workshops to help you write, deliver, and practice your talk.

Q Why can't I use Powerpoint animations?

A We use the same rules and guidelines as the UC system-wide competition to give the UCSD Champion the best opportunity to perform well. Powerpoint animations are not allowed at the state level.

Q Should I add citations to my slides?

A It's your decision, but citations are not required. Please keep in mind you only have 3 minutes.
Slides with a lot of technical information will be difficult to read within the time frame.

Q Do I include my name when I start my talk?

A Your slides should include a title slide, so stating your name is not necessary.
However, you may do so if it feels natural to you.