**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.