

# "Speak up!"

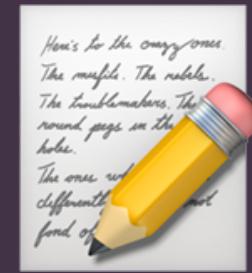
## the fine art of sharing and presenting

put out nametags, w/  
pronouns

# Ohai!

Host intros  
Our Speaking and workshop history  
Some of our worst speaking mistake(s)  
(keeping it humble, even pros mess up)  
So you've come with a topic in mind that  
you'd like to present at DevConf  
This workshop is geared towards helping  
you prepare a talk submission

# Agenda



Put up A4s

Trying something a bit  
different: modular workshop  
Lots of activites, moving  
around, writing, practicing and  
getting feedback

# Section: Debunking myths

short presentation  
quick run down of some things  
you might think prevent you  
from speaking, but maybe  
don't have to...

# Myth



“I’d be a terrible  
speaker”

# Debunk



You don't need to  
be perfect

You just need to be good enough to  
make a start

Start small, practice a lot

Making mistakes is part of learning  
and being a dev

You will learn and grow

Everyone gets nervous!

# Myth



## “I’m not an expert”

# Debunk



## You don't need to be to succeed

You don't need to be a super duper coding expert in order to qualify to talk

Your point of view, your way of seeing things is unique. We need diverse viewpoints

Your background, education, experiences are valuable

Experts and long standing members in the field often lose touch with the basics, getting started, learning something for the first time...

# Myth



**“But I’m not ready yet!”**

# Debunk



## You don't have to be

You'll never be 100% ready...

Submit a proposal

If it's accepted, work on the talk.

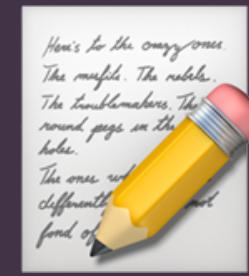
You don't have to know everything about  
the topic when you write the abstract

You can buddy up with someone: we  
can help with that! 😊

## Activity ✨

**What was the most interesting thing? 🤔**

**Write it on a sticky**



**Discuss the results**

**Keep it short!**

**Stick them up under the poster heading**

# Section: Debunking myths ✓

tick it off on the wall  
any questions?

**Section:**

# **Getting Started**

# Getting Started

# Talk Types

To the wall!

So hopefully you've come somewhat prepared to this workshop with a topic in mind.

Even with a topic though, it's useful to figure out what type of talk best fits your topic.

Refer to examples:

Overview - Code, tools, process, workflow

Case Study - how using xyz improved user engagement

Deep Dive - getting in to the nitty gritty

Let me show you - how to...

What we learned - mistakes we made, lessons learned

# Section:

Activity ✨

**Share your topic. What type of talk would it be?**

To the wall!

# Section: Getting Started ✓

tick it off on the wall  
any questions?

# Section: Writing a bio

**Activity** ✨

## **Write a bio**

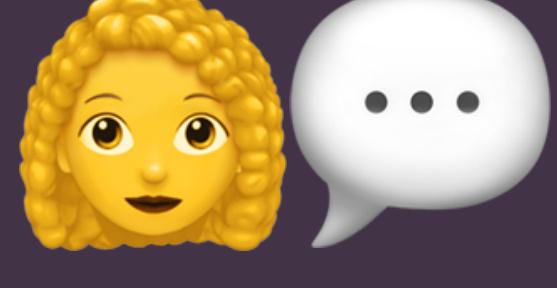
This is just the first draft, it doesn't need to be perfect

There will be time to revise it a little later

Think of the bio as a tiny one or two paragraph example of yourself

# Activity ✨

**Pair up**

**Read your bio** 

**Get feedback** 

**Use the handouts**

Read your bio, for practice

The more you read it the more  
comfortable you'll become

Stand up. It might feel silly, but it  
helps put our minds in the right  
frame for presenting something!

**Activity** ✨

**"Yay!"**



**thumbs up, high 1, high 5**

**Section:**  
**Writing**  
**a bio ✓**

# Break!



**Section:**

# **Submitting a talk**

**Submitting a talk**

# **Audience**

**Who will be there?**

**How will people decide to see  
your talk?**

**Say what you're going to  
discuss in detail.**

**Specify the audience.**

**Submitting a talk**

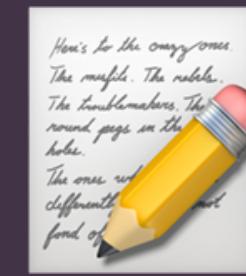
## **The abstract**

The abstract is a fancy way of saying the blurb

There is a particular style and structure to follow  
(refer to abstract handout)

# Activity ✨

## Write an abstract for your DevConf talk



### Audience, Talk Type, Title, Description

Refer to abstract handout notes

Need examples of audience? DevConf has a wide range of attendees, from folks just starting in the industry to tech veterans. There will be a wide range of skill sets and roles among those attending.

Need examples of talk types, check out the posters  
Remember this is a quick first draft, it doesn't need to be perfect

## Activity ✨

**Pair up**

**Read your abstract**

**Get feedback** 

**Use the handouts**

Pair up and read your abstract

Practice speaking!

Stand up when it's your turn. It may feel a little silly at first, but it helps keep the focus on you and get you into "speaker" mode.

**Activity** ✨

**"Woo!"**



**thumbs up, high 1, high 5**

# Section: Submitting a talk ✓

tick it off on the wall  
any questions?

**Section:**

# **Submitting to DevConf**

# Submitting to DevConf

## Candice's top tips

1    2    3

Candice is one half of the DevConf directors team

After many successful DevConf events, and tons of proposal reviews she has condensed her experience and insight into some key tips

# Submitting to DevConf

Tip#  1

## Answer the WHY

Why should people care about  
this talk?

Why are you the best person  
to deliver this content

# Submitting to DevConf

**Tip# 1 Advice:**

**Who would be a typical  
DevConf attendee?**

To help you answer this question, think about the typical DevConf attendee... Who is paying for their ticket? Would they believe you're offering real value?

# Submitting to DevConf

Tip#  2

## Describe the talk clearly

Talks that do well have a clear description

The reviewer should know what they'll get from attending your talk i.e. an answer to a question, a useful new skill etc

# Submitting to DevConf

**Tip#2 Advice:**

**Ask a friend to  
read your submission**

Ask a friend to read your submission and tell you what they think your talk is about

Don't pre-empt them with an explanation or try explain if they start looking confused

Let them read it through and tell you what they think

# Submitting to DevConf

Tip#  3

**Be the change  
you want to see**

Talks that describe problems  
aren't useful

DevConf's slogan is "Solving  
today and tomorrow's  
software development  
challenges"

# Submitting to DevConf

## Tip# 3 Advice:

### Explain the impact you've made

If talking about topics such as diversity or inclusion challenges, be able to articulate what impact you've made  
If you want to talk about women in tech, be a woman in tech  
Focus on solutions and positive impact, while trying to avoid victimhood

# Submitting to DevConf

## Tip#4

### Do something different

If you're simply submitting a talk you've already done for a different conference, it doesn't earn you any street cred

# Submitting to DevConf

## Tip#4 Advice:

Show how you've  
reworked and  
improved things!

If you're repeating a talk,  
clearly articulate how you've  
collected feedback and  
improved the talk since.

# Activity ✨

**Pair up**

**Review your abstracts**

**Get feedback** 

**Use the handout**

Pair up and each take a turn to review the others abstract

Refer to the handout

## Activity ✨

**Re-write your abstract  
Based on the feedback,  
how can your abstract  
be even better?**

With this advice in mind, how  
might you re-write your  
abstract to be even better?

**Activity** ✨

**"Yeah!"**



**thumbs up, high 1, high 5**

# Break!



Section:

# Preparing a talk

# Preparing a talk

## Practice

The best and most important bit of advice

Start by reading out loud to yourself in a mirror

Practice reading to a pet or close friend

Do a demo / practice run for co-workers

3 big things

# Practice Your words



Knowing your talk gives you confidence and a sense of security  
This will in turn make you comfortable with improvising

# Practice Your timing



We either tend to run really short or really long

Getting a better sense of our timing also helps with pace. You don't want to be racing along, or umming and ahing with looong pauses

Practicing a few times while timing yourself is super valuable

# Practice

## Again and again

A few times is probably enough

# Write a ⚡ lightning version of your DevConf talk

On an index card  
to keep it short

Audience input: Can anyone explain what a lightning talk is?

About 5 minutes.

A little short is fine.

You already have your audience, talk type, title, abstract

If you do slides, 1 or 2 plain ones is probably okay: not enough time for design today

# **Section:** **Preparing** **a talk ✓**

**tick it off on the wall  
any questions?**

# Lunch Break!



**Section:**  
**Giving**  
**a talk**

## Activity ✨

**Give your ⚡ lightning  
talk to your group**

**Get feedback 🤝**

**Use the handouts**

Groups of 4

Each person takes a turn to give their talk to the others

One person should keep time  
stop at 5mins, whatever happens!

It's only a first draft

Not gonna be perfect

But will give you some useful feedback, some new ideas

Stand up. Yes, it's silly. Yes, it helps.

**Activity** ✨

**"Noice!"**



**thumbs up, high 1, high 5**

**Section:**  
**Giving**  
**a talk ✓**

# Section: Next steps...

**Activity** 

**What's your plan for  
submitting to DevConf?**

**5Ws and 1H**

Who, what, when, where, why  
and how

Actionable goal

**Activity** ✨

# **Workshop feedback**

**One thing you'll  
tell a friend about  
this workshop** 🗣

**stickies on the wall**

**Anonymous, please be honest!**

# Thank you!

