

"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.

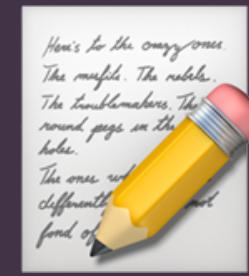
You don't have to know everything about
the topic when you write the abstract

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

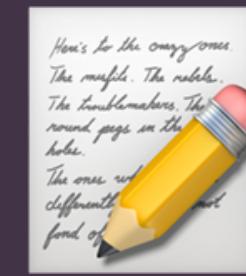
The abstract

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 ✨

What was the best piece of feedback?

Giving constructive feedback is a valuable skill.

What was the best piece of feedback you received so far?

Discuss at your table and write the best piece of feedback on a sticky
Stick it up on the wall when you're all done

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

What makes your take on the topic different/unique?

Focus on solutions and positive impact, while trying to avoid victimhood

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 ✨

**What's the most useful
thing you learned today?**

To the wall!

You've now run through the entire process of thinking about, preparing, submitting and giving a talk! What's the one most useful thing you've learned.
Write it on a sticky.

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!

