BOF: How to Give a Lightning Talk

#SciPy2018

BOF Structure

- Materials
  - http://pad.software-carpentry.org/scipy2018-lightning
- Introductions
- Talk: How to structure lightning talk content. Telling a story.
- Think-Pair-Share: Your lightning talk topic
- Talk and discussion: Performance
- Content and performance grid
- Sign up for a lightning talk! (if you decide you want to)

Introductions

- Introduce yourself to the person next to you.
- Share
  - Your name and pronouns
  - Where are you here from
  - What makes you most excited about giving a lightning talk

Introductions

Think – Pair - Share

- What makes you most nervous or concerned about giving a lightning talk?

Telling a story
How to structure lightning talk content

Telling a story

A lightning talk is a short story

The Hero's journey (a simplification)

- Say you're telling a story
- Background
- Then something happens
- Struggle
- Conclusion
- Happily ever after

You aren't necessarily the hero, the people you're solving the problem for are often the hero.

You only have time to tell **one** story.

Components of a lightning talk

- Who (say you're telling a story)
- What (background)
- Why (something happens)
- How (struggle)
- When upon (conclusion)
- Where (happily ever after)

Who

Who are you? What gives you the perspective to give this talk? (Not everything about you)

Who else do you need to acknowledge?

Why do you need to introduce yourself?
Shouldn't the work speak for itself!?

What

What are you going to talk about?

What is the current state of things?

Why

Why is this an interesting and/or important issue?

How

- **How** are you doing this work or approaching this problem?
- Is there any interesting or important struggle?

When upon

When upon. When upon this project is undertaken, what are the results of this work or what are potential outcomes?

Where

Where can people learn more about the project or where to contribute.

Your Lightning talk content

- Think: What could be your topic. Think through your Who, What, Why, How, When upon, Where (5 min)

Your Lightning talk content

- Pair: Share with your neighbor (10 min)

Notes on giving and receiving feedback:

- Listen to feedback and take what's useful

- Give both positive and needs improvement feedback

Your Lightning talk content

- Share: How was the process?

Performance

Any talk is both content and performance

- Be enthusiastic

Content and performance grid

	Good	Needs improvement
Content		
Performance		

Sign up for a Lightning talk!