



Lightning Talk Workshop

R-Ladies DC :: November 2018

@RLadiesDC on Twitter!

Why Give a Lightning Talk?

Some Links:

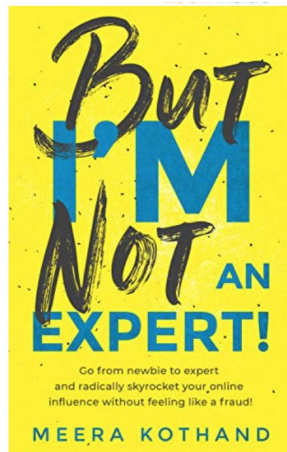
Public Speaking: Why?

<http://artsy.github.io/blog/2016/03/09/public-speaking-part-1-is-it-for-me/>

You don't need to be an expert:

<https://femineer.com/2016/04/why-you-dont-need-to-be-an-expert-to-speak/>

Maybe you can be the expert you never knew you were after all??



- Challenge yourself
- Break out of a static career/life slump
- Accidentally or purposefully find new opportunities
- Practice concise communication skills

My Typical (Lightning) Talk Design Process:

Process Based on **Heidi Waterhouse @wiredferret**:

<http://www.heidiwaterhouse.com/2016/06/19/how-to-write-a-lightning-talk/>

- 1. Brainstorm some topics**
 - a. Write conclusions “take-away messages” for each, as you go
 - b. Star the conclusions you feel are most satisfying or compelling to you in the moment
- 2. Settle on a topic to pursue**
- 3. Create your title slide**
- 4. Solidify your take-away message and then work backwards:**
 - a. Write your thesis - what do you want to show/prove/teach
 - b. Write the antithesis - lay out the objections/problems with your thesis
 - c. Write the synthesis - reconcile the problems or add a plot twist!
- 5. Don't forget to add pictures**
- 6. Practice**
- 7. Nail the game-day logistics**

Step ??. Sign up to give your talk at an event!

A Note About Timing

A great truth in talk design:

*I have made this longer than usual
because I have not had time to
make it shorter.*

<http://quoteinvestigator.com/2012/04/28/shorter-letter/>

Now for the Truth:

This is *really* hard to just sit down and “do”

If you're imagining that it looks like a nicely bulleted list where I enumerate topics and take-away messages, I have misled you **grievously**.



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Is this anything??

.... Random garbage Brain dump More garbage

Is this anything???

.... Ehhhh I hate this actually

IS THIS ANYTHING???

Ideas! Canvas Strategy - Ryan Holiday @RyanHoliday

Find new trains of thought to hand over for [the audience] to explore. Track down angles and contradictions and analogies that they can use.

Find outlets, people, associations, and connections. ***Cross wires to create new sparks***

Find inefficiencies and waste and redundancies. Identify leaks and patches to free up resources for new areas.

Blog about canvas strategy: <https://ryanholiday.net/the-canvas-strategy/>

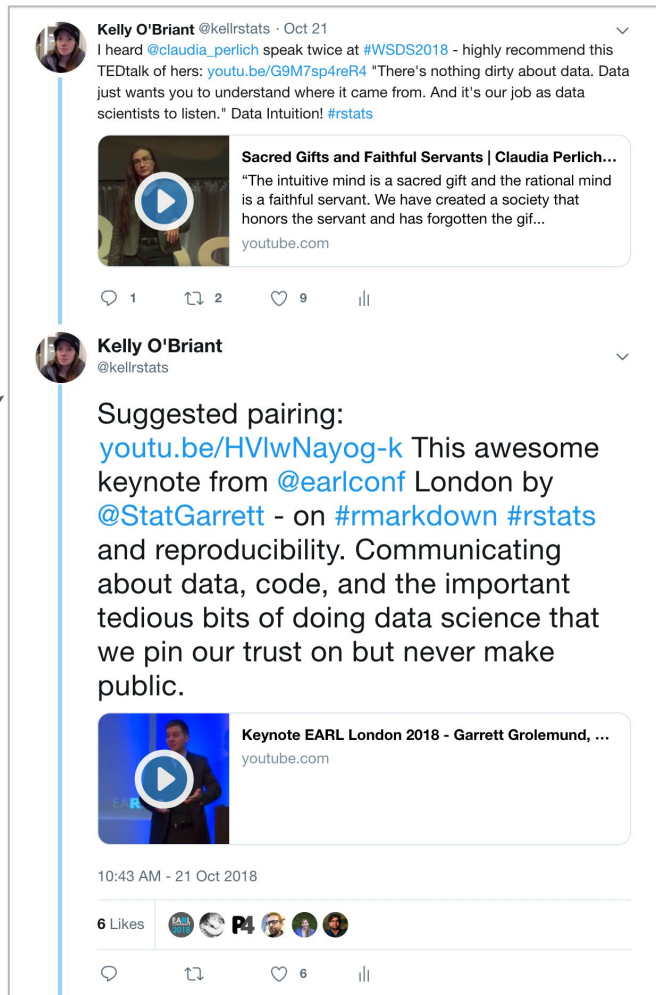
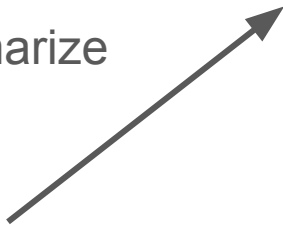
Ideas - Steal Them!

Content Recycling

Great: Summarize a talk you've seen

Awesome: Cross Some Wires (summarize more than one talk you've seen)

“Suggested Pairing” - Summarize two different talks/resources and talk about why they sit together in your brain



Exercise: Let's explore some prompts from the internet! <https://lucybain.com/blog/2016/conference-proposal-ideas/>

- What's something you work with fairly regularly and understand 80% of, but not 100%?
- What's a new technology or technique that you've heard of recently, but don't know much about?
- Do you have a particular workflow that you use and really like?
- What's your hobby? What lessons are shared between your hobby and your job?
- Think back to a year ago. What would you have wanted to know? What advice would you need?
- What's a book you read or an experience you had recently that you found particularly interesting, relevant, or profound?
- Is there something that irritates you about your work or process? How could it be solved? Perhaps you've solved it already and can share your story, or perhaps you need to do some research first.
- Think of a problem you've had in the past...
 - If you did solve it, how did you solve it? Were there other ways you could have solved it? Why did you pick the way that you did?
 - If you came across the same problem again, what would you have done differently?
 - If you didn't solve it, what went wrong? How could others avoid it in the future?

What's Next?



More Resources:

Marianna's Lightning Talk Blog Post Roundup:

<https://mfoos.github.io/blog/lightning-talks-for-the-unignited.html>

6
NOV

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Pre DCR SPDC/R-Ladies Lightning talks and drinks



Hosted by [Marck Vaisman and 2 others](#)

From [Statistical Programming DC](#)

Public group ?



Tuesday, November 6, 2018

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

[Add to calendar](#)