

AIARD Lightning Talks Information Sheet

Lightning Talk Description

Lightning Talks are a fast-paced, highly energetic delivery style.

Lightning Talks are 5-minute presentations, with exactly 20 PowerPoint slides that auto-advance every 15 seconds. When one presentation ends, the next one begins.

If you have not used this presentation format before, we have some tools that you can use to guide you through the process.

Each Lightning Talk is exactly 5 minutes (no exceptions).

Some Guidance for Lightning Talks

- Be realistic about how much information you can cover in 5 minutes.
- Highly technical presentations are difficult (but not impossible) in this format; you might need to talk about general concepts rather than detailed step-by-step technical instructions.
- Focus on including interesting, but brief descriptions. Time for questions IS NOT built into the presentation; colleagues who are interested in learning more about your program will seek you out during the roundtable/discussion
- Identify several key points you want to make and include on your submission form.
- Make sure you have time to prepare; some may find it harder to present a coherent 5 minute presentation than a 60 minute one because the margin for error is much smaller, and you need to quickly and concisely make your points.
- If you don't have visual information to include in 20 different slides, you have the option of using one or more slides multiple times as you continue to expand on information that correlates to that slide. The template is pre-built so you just copy the slides multiple times to complete the set of 20.
- Please be certain to include your name and contact information on your last slide (#20).
- Have fun with your topic. Lightning Talks give the audience just enough basic information to pique their interest for following up with you later!

Tools for presenters

1. Plan your talk by sketching ideas on the slide planner (PDF).
2. Wondering what it is like to do a talk where the slides auto-advance every 15 seconds? Create and practice your talk on the PowerPoint template (PPT). Remember -- Presentations must have 20 slides that auto advance every 15 seconds AND talk length is 5 minutes!
3. If you have questions, please contact Samantha Alvis salvis@apl.u.org or Tom Gill tbg12@psu.edu

Sign Up

- **April 8, 2016:** Lightning Talk Submission Forms are due via <http://www.aiard.org/lightning-talks-2016-annual-meeting.html>. Please include topic, 300 word maximum description of what you'll be sharing, the category in which the talk can be placed, and presenter contact information.
- **April 29, 2016** Lightning Talk presentations will be selected and presenters notified.
- **May 31, 2016** Final slide presentations are due to salvis@apl.u.org. This will allow all presentations to be loaded on one laptop to avoid a delay in switching computers or thumb drives between presentations.
- **June 7, 2016:** Lightening Talk Session at Annual Meeting

Examples of Lightning Talks

One popular example of lightning talks, also known as pecha kucha, is the Regional "Ignite" events, whose motto captures the spirit of this format: "Enlighten us, but make it quick." Get inspired by watching [Ignite videos](#) from across the nation. Watch examples of "Ignite" talks:

[A Report from the Woods](#)

[Are we on the Brink of a Robot Revolution?](#)