

# BUGSS SCIENCE SLAM

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## F.A.Q.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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#### **What exactly is a Science Slam?**

*A Science Slam is an event featuring scientific talks by scientists presenting their research work in a short timeframe to a general, non-expert audience. As a form of science communication, slams are meant to be entertaining and engaging to a diverse audience. In turn, the audience judges the scientist's presentation with the hope that this feedback will help you to improve your skills in communicating to a broad audience.*

#### **How long is a talk?**

*BUGSS Science Slam talks should be 5-7 minutes in length. The order of talks is random to keep things a fun mix, but if you have a preference or scheduling constraints, feel free to let us know.*

#### **Who is the audience?**

*The BUGSS audience tends to be a mix of curious Baltimoreans from fields as varied as the arts, teaching, engineering and biomedical science. Some are just fans of open science, and this event is a great opportunity to expose science novices to important research. Since we usually hold the talks out in the community, who knows who else might wander in to listen to some science!*

#### **How are the speakers judged?**

*Speakers are judged by the audience using this set of questions for each speaker:*

*How would you rate the speaker's clarity and ability to communicate?*

*How would you rate the speaker's slides/visuals?*

*How would you rate the speaker's ability to tailor the subject to a general audience?*

*How would you rate the scientific content of the presentation?*

#### **Will there be a chance to answer questions?**

*To keep the talks moving, there will be a question-and-answer period after all the talks have finished. During that time the audience may ask questions of any of the day's presenters.*

#### **What are the prizes?**

*There will be 4 AMAZON gift certificate prizes at each BUGSS science slam. One for best overall, one for best science, one for best speaker, and one for best visual aids.*

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### **Are there other presentation requirements?**

*Most participants use a PowerPoint slide deck with their presentation, but this is in no way mandatory. Any other visual aids, handouts, or props are encouraged.*

### **When do I need to get there and what do I need to provide ahead of time?**

*We appreciate if you can send us your presentation slides in advance so that we can put them all onto one computer and minimize transition time between speakers. If we have your talk, then showing up ~15 minutes before the scheduled start time is great.*

### **Is there a Cost to Attend? Who can I bring?**

*BUGSS Science Slams are free to the public, but if you are so inclined, BUGSS will gladly accept any of your tax-deductible donations. We encourage you to invite significant others, friends, lab mates, and more to hear the talks, please just ask them to RSVP on Eventbrite so that we have an approximate head count.*

### **Is this a formal professional event?**

*Science Slams are laid back and informal, so no need to dress up unless you would like to.*

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