



# Food Systems Institute Student Symposium Judging Criteria

**Presenter:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reviewer (Name, Title, Place of Employment):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose:** The first round of the student symposium features 3-minute 'lightning talks', which are bite-sized bits of science that showcase the essence of student's research. Finalists will also present 10-minute presentations, providing more detail on their projects. Students are tasked with presenting an engaging snapshot of their research, prepared for both a broad, non-academic audience of food systems stakeholders, as well as traditional academic researchers.

## 1. How much did you take away from the presentation? What?

Nothing      1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      A lot

What exactly? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Was the presenter clear about why their research matters to real-world concerns?

Not at all      1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      Very

How exactly? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. How engaging was the speaker?

Not at all      1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      Very

Why exactly? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Did the presentation tell a clear story?

Not at all      1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      Very

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Did the presenter stay on time?

Not at all      1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      Yes

Yes=6pts; 10 seconds over=3pts; 15 seconds or more=1pt

## 6. Do you have additional feedback (e.g., utility in your work, missing considerations, etc.)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# What Makes a Research Presentation?

- Who is your audience? Adjust the presentation so that it is understandable by the folks who are listening. It is usually best to avoid jargon and technical terms unless you know that your audience will recognize those words.
  - *For the Student Symposium, prepare your presentations for **BOTH traditional academic researchers and non-academic audiences** (e.g., consultants/private industry, municipalities/utilities, government, and non-profit organizations working across the foody systems sector).*
- For your 3-minute presentation, remember that less is more! Think about the “big picture” when selecting visuals and communicating the research.
- Your 10-minute presentation is where you will discuss more of the details (more of the *How? What? & Why?*).
- Focus on these four questions:
  1. *What was the motivation for conducting your research?*
  2. *What did you do?*
  3. *What did you or do you expect to find?*
  4. *Why does it matter (real-world implications or advice)?*
- Think about the flow of your talk. Does it tell a short, compelling story?
- Include only one major point per slide.
- Limit your use of text and use simple visuals.
- If you include text, make it clear and large enough to be viewed from a distance.
- You may have one of your slides up for only 30 seconds. Ensure that your visuals are simple and easy to interpret in a short amount of time.
- Ensure that the length of your presentation falls within the specified time limit (**3-minutes for round 1, and 10-minutes for round 2**).
- Keep in mind that you may have audience members that are color blind and cannot distinguish certain color differences, such as red and green.
- Prepare in advance: ***Practice, practice, practice!***
- Practice with a family member, a colleague, and a friend with a different major to ensure your talk is approachable to a broad audience.



# BOTH Presentations Should Typically Follow the Same Structure

Major Difference? Your 10-minute presentation allows for more of the *How?*, *What?*, and *Why?* to be explained!

## 1. Title, Authors, and Affiliations (Slide 1)

## 2. Background

- Hook the audience in! Start with something that makes them want to hear more (e.g., a quote, a statistic, a question for the audience).
- Set the stage: Identify the issue you are addressing.
- Specify the study's motivations—hypothesis and objective(s)

## 3. Methodology

- Describe how you approached your research question.
- Remember, only include information that is absolutely necessary for the audience to understand your project.

## 4. Major Findings

- Identify the key findings.
- You may want to use simple diagrams, graphs, and figures to tell this part of your story.

## 5. Conclusions and Implications

- Identify the significance of your findings.
- Describe why this is useful to the community (e.g., real-world applications, future directions).



## Other Helpful Resources

- [Nature Career Guide](#) (2021) tips for preparing presentations.
- [The Structure and Timing of a Three Minute Presentation](#) from The Learning Institute (2015) provides a helpful infographic for 3-minute presentations.
- Elizabeth Saewy at the University of British Columbia provides [10 tips for the 10-minute conference presentation](#) (published July 21, 2016).
- [Brevity, Clarity and Wit: 10 Commandments for a 10-Minute Talk](#) (Morton & Yu, 2019).
- [Giving an Academic Talk](#) by Jonathan Shewchuk at the University of California at Berkeley.
- [How to Give a Killer Presentation: Lessons from TED](#) by Chris Andersen (Harvard Business Review, June 2013).
- [COMPASS Message Box Workbook](#) is a great resource for helping you communicate to a variety of audiences.
- [Presentation Zen](#) by Garr Reynolds.