

## What is a Slam?

A Science Slam requires scientists to present their research topics in an entertaining fashion in the course of 10 min – usually on stage.

An extraction of a thesis, current experiments in the lab, or innovative lecture ideas are prepared in a multi-medial fashion – using props, games, songs, dance or simple explanations. Applause from the audience determines the winner.

The goal is to translate science into entertainment and to make the presentation as exciting as possible and the topic understandable, even for novices. The audience is the jury.

### Tips for (60 sec) pitch slam to help you hone your idea into a compelling 60 seconds:

Found at: <http://www.theopennotebook.com/2012/10/24/cramming-for-the-slam/>

- Focus on your best idea.
- To distill your idea down to its essence, imagine the story already written — and write the 140-character tweet.
- Lead with what's cool and sexy about the story rather than with backstory, which can come afterwards.
- Even in the time frame of sixty seconds, give your idea a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- Since your Slam pitch will be timed with a stopwatch, print it out and practice aloud beforehand to stay within one minute.

**Tips for 10 min slams** to help you get started: these tips are for single persons giving a speech, but can be applied for group efforts as well. Make sure everyone in the group participates.

- **Important! Do not be afraid of the audience!**
- **Try to present complex concepts in a simple manner.**
- **Stay natural!**
- **Try to arouse the interest/curiosity of the audience.**
- **Speak clearly!** Speak to the audience (not to the screen), use eye contact! Vary your voice modulation! Keep up a dynamic tone – try to avoid monotony!
- **Make pauses in your speech.**
- **Your talk should have a logical thread – don't get off track!**
- **Your talk should have an Introduction – Main body – End**
- **Use illustrative comparisons and examples in the course of your speech – refer back to them during the speech.**
- **Do not give a conventional scientific talk.** Use scientific terms only if you explain them – do not assume that they are understood. Use regular language and not complicated sentence structures.
- **Involve the audience!** For example, by using rhetorical questions, a casual vote during the talk,
- **If you use rhetorical questions:** use questions that are interesting and relevant to the audience, and then answer the question during the course of the speech. The question should be simple, but not so simple that the audience loses interest.
- **Practice the text until you know it by heart!** It is not necessary to memorize it word-for-word, but know exactly what you want to talk about!
- **Use pictures or metaphors for illustration.**

## Diverse information found on the internet about Science Slams

More info found on webpage Goethe Intstitut: Science in the pub  
<http://www.goethe.de/wis/fut/bko/en6483164.htm>

### **Examples on video:**

(German) Mothen: Sehen um Dunkeln <http://www.scienceslam.org/hall-of-fame.html>

Transplantation Immunology  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOh6lsuf\\_-I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOh6lsuf_-I)

Computational Algorithms: Sex, Videotapes and News  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fq5StT58i8>

Stinkbugs and Soybean crops  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0I4T8SHIVkw>

Who are you? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MojD9L1JZuk>