

LIGHTNING TALKS



WHAT ARE LIGHTNING TALKS?

A series of short presentations on the same or diverse topics by different speakers lasting a few minutes each as part of a single session.

LIGHTNING TALKS MAY OCCUR

- » virtually or face-to-face.
- » as a moderated activity with each talk lasting five minutes.
- » with experienced practitioners.

USE IT TO

- » raise awareness about one or more topics in a short amount of time.
- » report on project or group results and good practices.
- » enhance individual or group capacity to prepare succinct reports or presentations.
- » offer new perspectives.

HOW TO USE IT

- » Organize lightning talks like “speed dates.” The idea is that participants can experience many different ideas in a short amount of time.
- » Advance preparation is key to a successful outcome. Have presenters work with a coach or facilitator to prepare for the talk.
- » Ask each presenter to do a dry run of their presentation to ensure that all goes as expected.
- » Give presenters a checklist that addresses what they are expected to do during the session to stay on track, and what to expect after they are done.
- » Sequence the lightning talks so the audience can make sense of the issues being presented. Consider the overall message of the talks.