



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Symposium Flash Talks – Fall 2026

A flash talk is a very short presentation lasting only a few minutes in which you present a scientific concept or idea in a manner understandable to those outside your immediate field.

Presentation Format

- Maximum presentation time: **5 minutes**.
- Only one presenter per flash talk.
- Presentations exceeding 5 minutes will be stopped by the moderator and disqualified from winning.
- Participants may use up to **five slides**. Slides must be submitted by October 14 in wide format (16:9). Animations and transitions are permitted. No audio on slide permitted.
- Presentation should be understandable to a broad academic audience.
- There will be no questions from the audience.
- The talk should cover a research project and the following areas:
 - Introduction
 - Methodology
 - Results
 - Recommendation

By College/Field (Limit 10 flash talkers per category, chosen in order of registration)

- (9:00 – 10:00 AM) Agriculture and Life Sciences
- (10:15 – 11:15 AM) Natural Sciences in Arts and Sciences
- (11:30 – 12:00 PM) *Flash Networking*
- (12:00 – 1:00 PM) *Lunch Break*
- (1:00 – 2:00 PM) Humanities in Arts and Sciences, Education, Business, and Architecture, Art and Design
- (2:15 – 3:15 PM) Engineering
- (3:30 – 4:30 PM) Forest Resources and Veterinary Medicine



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Judging Criteria:

Each judge scores competitors on a scale of 1 to 10 in each of the categories below.

- Communication:
 - Did the presentation communicate the research effectively?
 - Were the main ideas presented in an orderly and clear manner?
- Importance:
 - Did the presentation communicate the innovation and/or significance of the research effectively?
 - Did the presenter make recommendations for further work in this area?
- Engagement:
 - Did the presentation make the audience want to know more?
 - Was the theme/take-home message clear?
- Visual Design:
 - Were the slides clear, readable, and visually effective?
 - Did the visuals enhance the presentation without being distracting?

Prizes for Flash talks (Per category 1st and 2nd place)

- Agriculture and Life Sciences
 - \$150 first place, \$75 second place
- Natural Sciences in Arts and Sciences
 - \$150 first place, \$75 second place
- Humanities in Arts and Sciences, Education, Business, and Architecture, Art and Design
 - \$150 first place, \$75 second place
- Engineering
 - \$150 first place, \$75 second place
- Forest Resources and Veterinary Medicine
 - \$150 first place, \$75 second place