



ResilienceCon Data Blitz Guidelines

The Data Blitz session at ResilienceCon is a companion to the Poster session. The Data Blitz is a short talk format—3 slides in 3 minutes—that provides a chance for poster authors to pique people’s interest in their poster. It is also an opportunity for junior professionals to gain experience in oral presentations.

Here are some guidelines for creating Data Blitz presentations:

The Data Blitz format is intended to be an engaging way to succinctly present ideas.

The formal structure of the talk -- exactly 3 slides for a 3-minute presentation--presents a challenge that forces us to think deeply about how to clearly convey our ideas to an audience.

- 1) You can set the PowerPoint presentation to automatically advance each slide after 20 seconds. You do this on the Transitions tab, all the way on the right there is a section called Advance Slides and a place you can enter 1 minute (be sure not to do 10 minutes or 1 second!)
- 2) We recommend image-intensive slides, limiting the number of words on each slide to help listeners absorb the message you want to send.

If you include images, please use legal images. There are several ways to find legal images:

- a) You can search for images that have permission to be copied in Google. Enter your search term (such as “rainbows”), click on Images, click on Tools, click on Usage Rights, and then choose any of the re-use options (non-commercial re-use will give you the most).

- b) Wikimedia, Pixabay, Unsplash and other sites have photos that can be downloaded for free without any kind of registration required.

- 3) If you present data (not required), think figures more than tables.

- 4) In the Data Blitz, perhaps the most important thing to remember is that you want to pique people’s interest. Many Data Blitz’ers end with “come by my poster to learn more!” Thus, the goal is not to present all the key points of your paper in a 3-minute crash course. Some even end their presentations with cliffhangers that set up the first part of the story but make people come by for the conclusion. In any case, keep your message focused. People will likely only remember one thing from your presentation. What would you like that to be?

- 5) Practice! Even after giving hundreds of talks, we still find that there is nothing like practicing out loud to be most effective when the actual moment comes. For brief talks such as the Data Blitz, practice is even more important, and be sure to pay special attention to your opening, your closing, and the transition between slides.