Grad Slam: Judging Criteria

A panel of three faculty, staff, or community members will judge each round. Each judge will award up to 35 points based on the following criteria, for a total of up to 105 points.

In the case of a tie, the presenter with the higher presentation score will be deemed the winner. In instances where presentation scores are the same, the scores for Significance and Audience will then be compared and the presenter with the greater score will be deemed the winner.

Presentation (Maximum Score = 15)
- **Clarity:** Did the presentation help you (and the audience) understand the topic and its impact? (5 pts.)
- **Delivery:** Did the speaker’s body language, eye contact, and vocal range contribute to the effectiveness of the presentation? Did the speaker deliver the talk without relying excessively on notes? (5 pts.)
- **Visuals:** Were the slides well designed, clear, legible, and concise? Did they enhance the presentation and help to emphasize the primary points of the talk? (5 pts.)

Significance (Maximum Score = 10)
- **Intellectual Significance:** Did the speaker explain why his/her research matters? Did the speaker describe the broader impact of the topic? (5 pts.)
- **Intellectual Curiosity:** To what extent did the talk (topic and performance combined) speak to your intellectual curiosity? Did the talk encourage you to learn more about the topic? (5 pts.)

Audience Engagement (Maximum Score = 10)
- **Suited to a Non-Specialist Audience:** Was the topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an educated but non-specialist audience? Did the speaker avoid discipline-specific jargon where possible, while still respecting the intelligence of the audience? (5 pts.)
- **Context:** Did the speaker provide adequate background knowledge to make the talk and its impact understandable? (5 pts.)

Timing
- Each presentation has three minutes to be completed
- A timer will alert the presenter when three minutes has passed. At this point the presenter is allowed to thank the audience and leave the presentation area.
- Should a presenter choose to go beyond the three minute mark, he or she will be disqualified.

Feedback: Judges are encouraged to provide written feedback via the Grad Slam scorecard to all participants to help them improve for future presentations.