

Introducing yourself

Throughout an academic career there are key opportunities to introduce yourself and your research. These introductions are opportunities not to be missed, such as:

- A short conversation at a conference in front of a poster
- At the start of a job interview
- To a class of students
- To a college or university administrator
- To an NSF program officer
- On a web page.

In each case, the goal is to have a brief introduction that conveys **what you do** and **why it is significant**.

Prior to the workshop, you submitted a few sentences that introduced who and where you are, your research and its significance, and possibly something about your teaching. These are posted on the participants' page of the workshop website.

Now, at the workshop, we ask you to introduce yourself, orally. We find it is very common at the start of a meeting or workshop to be asked to introduce yourself. Feel free to jot down a few key items, along the lines of what you wrote for your bio on the web page, and then we'll start with introductions. Keep in mind that these types of introductions are often very brief, and usually your research needs to be explained in ways that make it clear to non-specialists.

After the workshop, at the Northeastern GSA meeting, we encourage you to introduce yourself to someone you do not already know, or that you don't know well. You may find this opportunity during a social hour, at a meal, in front of a poster, or in an elevator. You can start the conversation 'cold,' or sometimes a colleague or advisor may provide a friendly start to the conversation. These types of introductions tend to be more fluid, with give and take between two or more people. For this reason, it tends to work well to convince the person early that what you do is important, so that they ask questions and want to hear more about it. Some people find it helpful to think about this type of introduction in terms of what can be said in the time of an elevator ride, and for this reason they get the name "elevator talks." Examples of "elevator talks" can be found at:

http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/careerprep/jobsearch/elevator_talks.html