YOU
Can Speak at PyCon!

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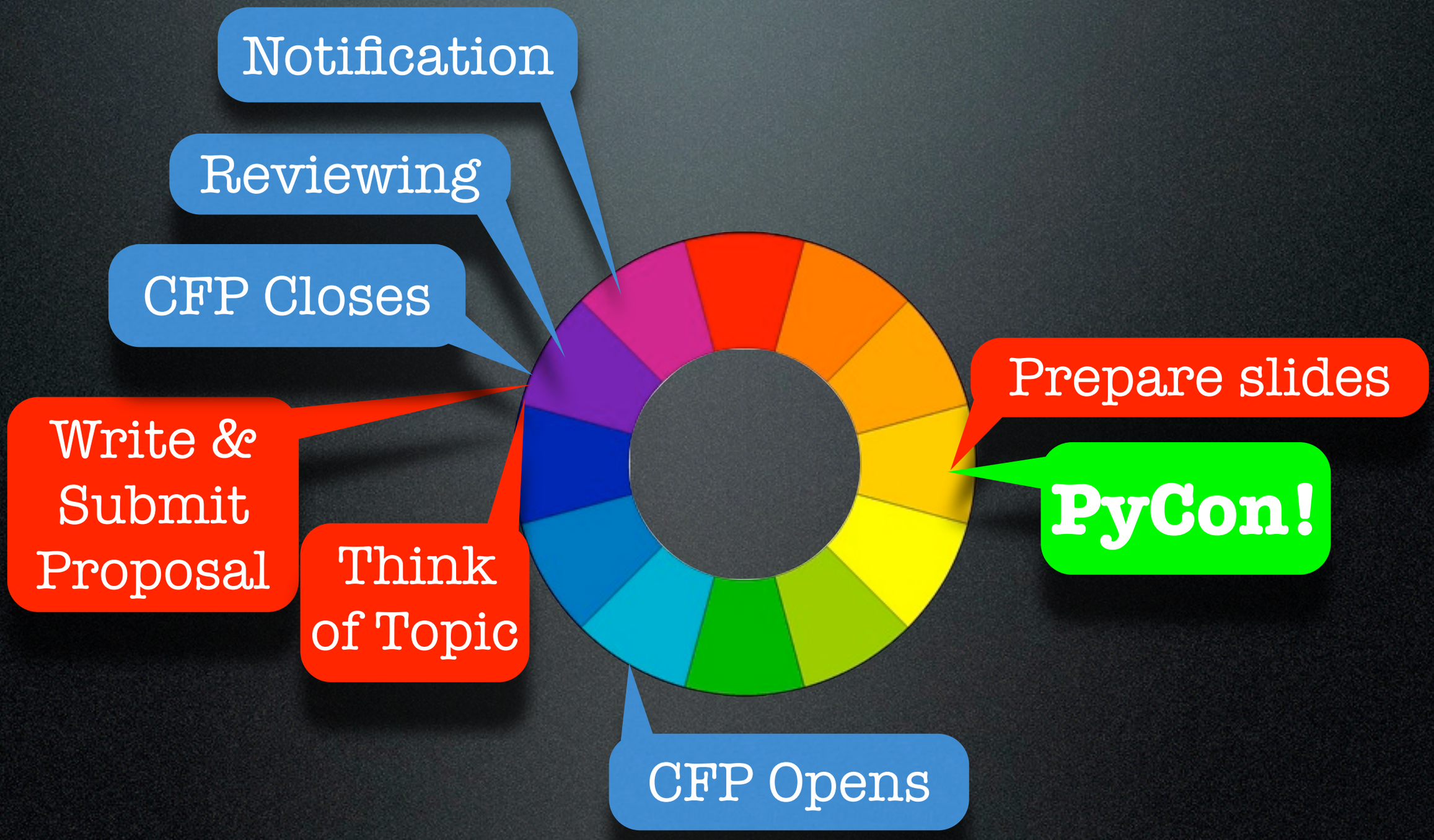
http://goo.gl/XZYI7

The Conference Cycle



PyCON CFP timeline

- Call For Proposals Opens in July
- CFP Closes in September
- Reviewing: September - November
- Notifications sent in early December

https://us.pycon.org/2013/speaking/cfp/

Review process

- Initial reviews
  - vote on proposals
  - feedback for presenter

+1

- Kittendome
  - Is it a good proposal for PyCon?
- Thunderdome
  - Two proposals enter, one leaves

https://us.pycon.org/2013/pc/guide/

Criteria

- Would I go see this talk?
- Would a lot of attendees go see it?
- Is proposal well thought out?
- Does author know enough about topic?
- Is it too ambitious (or too narrow)?

Improve **YOUR** chances

- DON'T wait until the CFP!
- Start **now**!

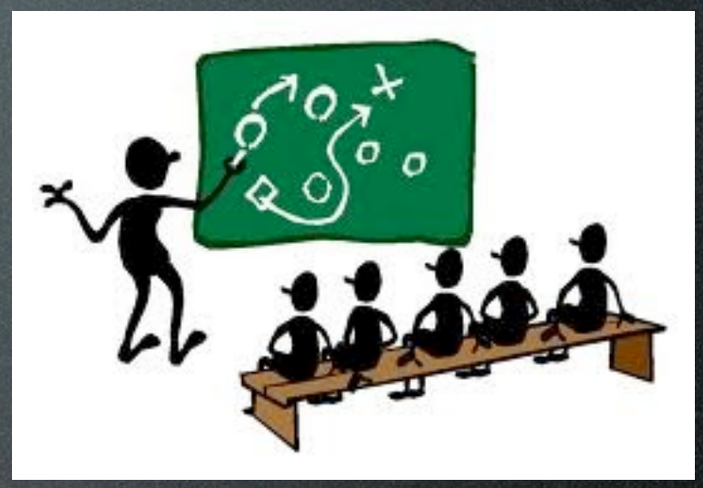
Find a topic

- What are you working on? How do you apply Python?
- What packages/modules do you use?
  - a new feature/module/package or a different way of using it?
- What projects do you contribute to?
- What interests you? Some of the best talks are “related” or “fringe” topics

Don’t self-select out

- Newbies welcome!
  - *You* are the expert on how *you* use Python
- Push the envelope
  - Some of the best talks are REALLY OUT THERE!

Start talking!



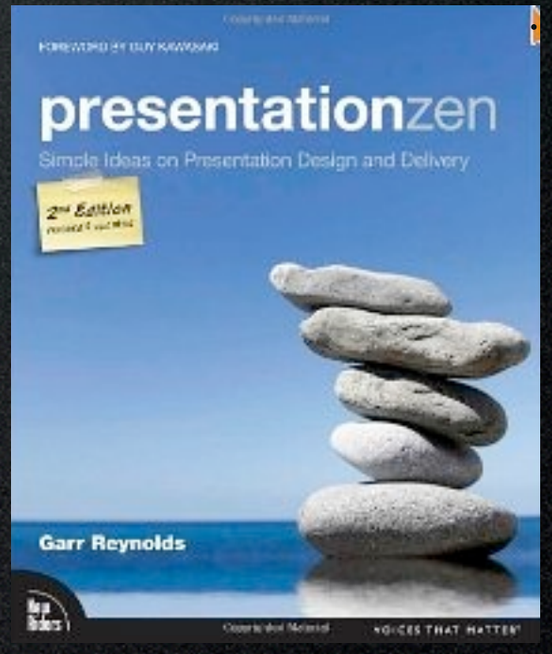
- Blog
- Lightning talks
- Unconferences
- Open Space

Give the talk!

- User Groups:
  - BayPiggies, PhillyPUG, ...
  - PyLadies, ...
- Other conferences:
  - local, regional: PyOhio, ...
  - international: EuroPython, ...
  - related: DjangoCon, SciPy, ...
  - unrelated: ACCU, ...

Improve the talk

- Ask audience: “What didn’t work? What was confusing?” Use Q&A
- Resources to improve presentations:
  - books, blogs, youtube,...
- Think beyond the slides
  - Body language and speaking
  - Add stories, anecdotes
  - Add audience participation
- Video is your friend



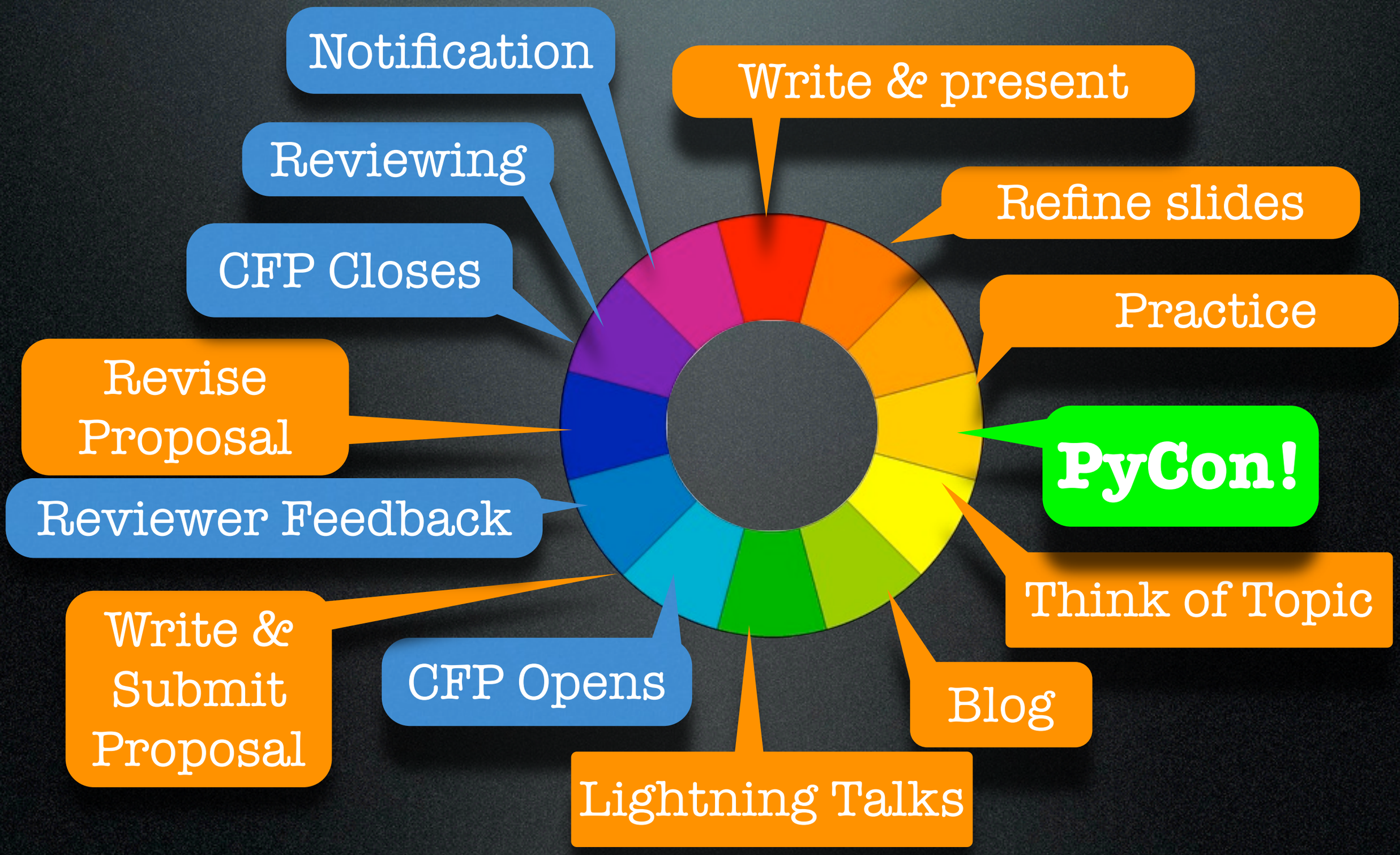
Submit early and often

- Submit early to get more feedback
- Submit multiple talks
  - different angles
  - different audiences
- Submit to multiple venues

Reviewer Feedback

- While CFP is open - reviewers have more time/energy for giving feedback
- Make sure we have a good eddress
- Respond promptly
- Modify proposal

“Ideal” Conference Cycle



Proposal Submission

- Title
  - Audience Level
  - Category
- Description (50 words)
- Abstract (500 words)
- Notes to reviewers
- Bio

Title

- Short, catchy
- Descriptive
- Interest not obfuscation
- Guidebook

Description

- Summary for attendees
- What's the talk about?
- Who is the intended audience?
- WIIFM?

Abstract

- The “meat” of the proposal. Will be printed for attendees.
- What’s it about?
  - How is it related to Python?(!)
  - Why is it important/interesting?
- Who should attend and what will they get out of it?
- Timing (too narrow/too broad?)

Outline

- Rough outline of your talk!
- Topic headers with approximate timing:
  - intro of topic 5 mins
  - main points 15 mins
  - conclusion 2 mins

Bio

- Not just for the program book!
- Who are you and why are YOU the right person to give this talk?
- Don’t assume all reviewers know you

Notes to Reviewers

- anything you want us to know but don't want printed
- E.g., you're submitting a tutorial and a talk and want to only do one or the other...
- If you'll be afk during review process
- If you're addressing/comparing multiple packages/modules, etc, -- LIST some
- Don't surprise us or leave us guessing!

Avoid!

- Sales pitch
- Typing instead of slides
- Internet-required
  - have backup plan (DESC
    backup plan in notes to reviewers)
- CoC Violations

Tread lightly

- Case studies
  - What will audience learn?
- In-house/proprietary products
  - How audience can apply info?
- 45-minute talks
  - much higher bar for acceptance
- Live demos

If your talk's not accepted

- Remember that PyCon gets 100s of proposals each year
- Consider a Poster or Lightning Talk
- Try again next year!

WE WANT **YOU**

To speak at PyCon!

http://goo.gl/XZYI7