The concept of Science Communication Boot Camp is to use improv and drama skills to improve science communication. You might be thinking, OK sounds like fun but frivolous and maybe not worth my time... let me stop you right there!

The concept of using improv and drama was about accessing your own humanity when engaging in science communication. It's not about simply 'seeming relatable' but rather actively relating and building bridges with the people with whom you are communicating.

I think the Alda Center is actually doing something totally essential for our time. That is, teaching scientists to tell authentic, meaningful, memorable stories about what they do and why it matters. We laughed, we cried. It was amazing. Some people (including myself) reflected that it was the most impactful science workshop they had ever been to.

Activities during the workshop ranged from: learning to tell our own personal science stories in a compelling way, learning to change our communication styles depending on our audience, learning to use vivid and visual language to talk about science, learning to pick-up on non-verbal cues and communicate non-verbally, learning how to use empathy to find common ground and build connections when communicating science, and finally, how to prepare for a media interview to talk about our projects. (Complete with an actual professionally recorded media interview!).
I had a phenomenal time, and I am so grateful for the Macdonald Student Experience Enhancement Fund for making it possible for me to attend this workshop. I have recommended it to every person I know, and I wish everyone could have the opportunity to learn such essential lessons about communication.