

## What is

Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland in Australia in 2008. The premise of the competition is to develop academic, presentation, and research communication skills. It supports the development of students' capacities to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to an intelligent but nonspecialist audience. Graduate students have three minutes to present compelling orations on their thesis or dissertation topics and their significance. 3MT™ is not an exercise in “watering down” research but forces students to consolidate their ideas and concisely explain their research discoveries.

Visit the [3MT™ website \(https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/\)](https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/) to watch videos of award-winning presentations from a variety of universities.

## Benefits of Participation

Some benefits of participating in a 3MT™ Competition include:

- Strengthen presentation skills and public speaking
- Enhance ability to communicate your research
- Practice and

Mentors will be notified by March 31, 2023, if his/her 3MT™ proposal has been selected for the competition.

## Eligibility

Doctoral, Specialists and Master's students currently enrolled (full or part-time status) are eligible to compete. Doctoral students will be judged separately from the Specialists and Masters students.

## Rules

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or “movement” of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to maximum of 3 minutes. Presenters exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- The project must include specific objectives or investigative questions and how you will support your conclusion.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.

## Judging Criteria

### Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend

## **Engagement & Communication**

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation – was it clear, legible, and concise?

## **Symposium Committee Members**

Drs. David Nelson, Keith Lee, Anne Price, ivieoncise?

# **10 Hints for Improving Presentations for the**

By Danielle Fischer

1. Forget everything you know about giving scientific presentations: You must tailor your talk to your audience