Three Minute Thesis
Information Session

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About 3MT

• Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a research communication competition which challenges graduate students to present a compelling oration on their research and its significance in just three minutes in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

• 3MT is NOT an exercise in trivializing or ‘dumbing-down’ research but forces students to consolidate their ideas and crystalize their research discoveries.
Eligibility

• Anyone who is registered and enrolled in a graduate program in the fall of 2018 will be eligible to participate in 3MT.
• Students who have graduated are not eligible.
• Competitors who are eligible on November 5, 2018 shall remain so for the regional competitions irrespective of subsequent changes to their status.
Progression

Each Department selects department winner(s). Departments have the choice to run their own heats or nominate students.

University Wide Semi-Finals. All 48 department winners compete against each other.

University-Wide Final Competition. Top 15 students from the Semi-Final round advance to the Finals.
Upcoming Training Opportunities for ALL Graduate Students

• **Wednesday, October 3, 1:00-2:00pm, TBD**
  **Presentation Tips Workshop** by Alexa Chilcutt

• **Thursday, October 11th, from 3:00-5:00pm, Rose Administration Building G55**
  **3MT Practice Session**

• **Friday, October 12th, from 3:00-5:00pm, Rose Administration Building G55**
  **3MT Practice Session**
Additional Resources for students

• **The Speaking Studio: Presentation Lab on Campus FREE and open to ALL Students!**
  
  FREE Presentation Lab in Reese-Phifer room 166. Available time slots and sign-up process online at www.speakingstudio.ua.edu

• **Career Center’s Mock Interview portal**
  
  All students can practice their 3MT presentations either Person-to-Person or through Virtual Mock Interviews
Deadlines and Dates

• **Monday, October 15\textsuperscript{th} by 8:00am**
  Deadline to submit the name(s) of your department winner(s) to the Graduate School.

• **Monday, October 22\textsuperscript{nd} 11:00am-5:00pm**
  Bevill Hall 1000 Semi-Final Competition

• **Monday, November 5\textsuperscript{th} 6:00-8:00pm**
  Graves Hall 118 Final Competition
Example of Judging
Information Packet
(See handout)
Rules for Competition


- 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 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- 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 adjudicating panel is final.
Judging Criteria

• At both the semi-final competition and final competition hosted by the Graduate School each competitor will be judged based on the international judging criteria on the next slide.

• Although departments may use any means they desire to select their winners for the all-University competitions, departments are encouraged to use these judging criteria when selecting their department winner(s).
Judging Criteria

Comprehension and content

• Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research question being addressed, while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon?
• Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
• Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
• Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
• Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?
Judging Criteria

Engagement and communication

• Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
• Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise 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?
Visit the 3MT Site to Learn More

https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/resources
Videos of past winner!

• 2017 3MT
  – https://vimeo.com/262078024/93a87f45d8

• Winning 3MT presentations from around the globe
  http://threeminutethesis.org/index.html?page=191541&p id=193447
Cash Prizes and a Trip to the CSGS 3MT Competition in Knoxville, TN (Feb. 14-16, 2019)
Questions?

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