



Do you have what it takes to present your research to a non-specialist audience in only three minutes?

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition was developed by the University of Queensland to celebrate students' research and exercise their communication skills. The aim of the competition is for students across colleges and departments to cultivate their academic, presentation and research communication skills by explaining their research to a wide audience containing non-specialists in just three minutes. The winner of MSU's 3MT competition will progress on to the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) 3MT later in the semester.

### **Rules & How to Compete**

- Students enrolled in either Master's and Ph.D. programs may compete. A student's program of study must contain an original research project. The degree program need not formally require a thesis or dissertation; however, the presentation topic must cover the original research project.
- Participants must be an enrolled student at some point during the academic year in which the MAGS competition.

### **Competition Rules**

- One single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. Slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description of the slide content is not allowed.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. notecards, scripts, pointers, costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3:00 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3:00 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 begins through movement or speech.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.

### **To Compete: Submit a 30 second teaser of your 3MT presentation.**

Please upload a single PowerPoint slide with 30 seconds of voice over using the Record Slide Show function in PowerPoint.

Any questions about submission? Contact us at: [office@cogs.msu.edu](mailto:office@cogs.msu.edu)

### **Judging Criteria**

At every level of the competition each competitor will be assessed on the judging criteria listed below (a breakdown is also provided on the Graduate Academic Conference website <https://cogs.msu.edu/gac/>). Each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on audience.

#### Comprehension and 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?
- Were 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 adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

#### Engagement and 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?

### **Resources**

[Making the Most of Your Three Minutes](#) by Simon Clews, University of Melbourne

[Tips and Techniques for More Confident and Compelling Presentations](#) by Matt Abrahams, Stanford University

[Ten Hints for Improving Presentations for the Three Minute Thesis Competition](#) by Danielle Fischer, Charles Darwin University

**Examples**

[Megan Pozzi](#), University of Queensland, Australia

[Sharon Savage](#), University of New South Wales, Australia

[Rob Duguid](#), Miami University

For more information about 3MT visit: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au>

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