Three Minute Thesis (3MT)

The Three Minute Thesis* (3MT) competition celebrates the exciting research conducted by graduate students around the world. Developed by The University of Queensland (UQ), 3MT cultivates students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. The competition supports their capacity to explain their research effectively in three minutes and in a language appropriate for a non-specialist audience. Participants have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their dissertation, thesis, or capstone and its significance. 3MT is not an exercise in trivializing or "dumbing-down" research; it challenges students to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries and present them concisely to a non-specialist audience. UTEP's 2020 3MT Exhibition will include an on-campus preliminary event and a public competition at the El Paso Museum of History:

Overview Webinar (optional) — Tuesday, February 25, 12:00-12:40pm
Preliminary Competition
- Wednesday, March 11, 10:00am–12:00pm
- Thursday, March 12, 3:00–5:00pm

Practice Session (optional) — Monday, March 23, 3:00-5:00pm
Final Competition — Saturday, March 28, 3:00–4:30pm

Eligibility:

- ✓ UTEP 3MT is open to all graduate students completing a dissertation, thesis, or capstone.
- ✓ Students should have successfully proposed their project prior to March 11, 2020. Exceptions may be made with faculty approval.
- ✓ Eligible students must first participate in a preliminary competition in order to receive an invitation to the public exhibition.
- ✓ Sign up here by March 10 at 12:00pm:

3MT Official Status:

The University of Queensland's global 3MT program recognizes UTEP's 3MT program, though UTEP's eligibility requirements are more inclusive. The most recent winner of UTEP's 3MT program may compete in the Western Association of Graduate Schools regional competition.

- Click here to see winning examples of the 3MT.
- Click here to see the 3MT competitor guide.
- Click here for more information about the WAGS Regional 3MT Competiton.

Prizes:

- Winner–$500
- Runner-up– $250
- People's Choice– $250

3MT® THREE MINUTE THESIS
FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

*****_While "thesis" generally refers to master's-level research projects in the U.S., the term includes doctoral dissertations in much of the world._

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 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:

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?

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?

People’s Choice

- The audience votes on who gave the most convincing presentation.
- A finalist can be the winner or runner-up and still receive the People’s Choice award.

Direct questions about 3MT to:

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