

Making the most of your Three Minute Thesis (3MT[®]) presentation

The rules

- 3 minutes maximum (timed from when presenter starts movement or speech)
- A single static PowerPoint slide (No transitions or animations)
- Slide to be presented from beginning of talk
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound, video) or props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment)
- Presentations commence from the stage
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).

The 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?

What 'works'? Some aspects to consider

- Starting
- Establishing significance
- Clarity & comprehensibility
- The slide
- Presentation skills

Examples: What 'works' in these?

Tim Paris; Uni Western Sydney (Overall Winner Trans Tasman Competition 2012)

<http://vimeo.com/channels/3mt/51274877>

Jen Owens Lincoln University (Finalist, Trans Tasman Competition 2015)

<https://vimeo.com/141872240>

More examples for you to browse:

3MT[®] Winning presentations from around the world 2016 – 2018

<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt>

Uni Adelaide: Ngoc Pham (University Finalist, 2015) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5ZbZj-_Oys

Curtin University: Sarah Marley (Finalist, 2014 Trans Tasman Competition 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XznGGhyi59g>

Uni Western Australia: Lauren Hollier (Runner up Trans Tasman Competition 2012)

<http://vimeo.com/channels/3mt/51274878>

Uni Auckland: Kien Ly (University Winner, 2012) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-KkOaD6vNQ&list=PL4EJd87SGj54SX6oU6uPGGJ8D9tm479dq&index=1)

[KkOaD6vNQ&list=PL4EJd87SGj54SX6oU6uPGGJ8D9tm479dq&index=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-KkOaD6vNQ&list=PL4EJd87SGj54SX6oU6uPGGJ8D9tm479dq&index=1)

Uni Queensland: Matthew Thompson; (Winner, Trans-Tasman 2011)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvjPzsLlyGw>

Uni Western Australia: Ryan Kempster (University Winner 2011)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mS3e50p90M>

Deakin Uni: Anthony Ware (University Winner 2010)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkCh4wFrexw>

Tips from 3MT[®] & others

- <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/resources/3mt-competitor-guide>
- <https://www.universityaffairs.ca/career-advice/career-advice-article/how-grad-students-can-effectively-tell-their-research-story/>
- <https://simonclews.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/YTSN.pdf>