BYU 3 Minute Thesis: Information Packet

Contents
History.................................................................................................................. 1
Success................................................................................................................... 1
Motivation.............................................................................................................. 1
3MT® Competition: Rules & Guidelines.............................................................. 2
College 3MT® Competition.................................................................................. 3
University 3MT® Competition............................................................................ 4
Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Guidelines........................................ 4
Resources............................................................................................................. 5
Contact Information............................................................................................ 5

History

- 2008—First 3MT held at University of Queensland, Australia
- 2009-2010—Spread to other Australian and New Zealand Universities
- 2010—Became a multi-national event
- 2012—Included over 30 Universities across Australia, Hong Kong, and the South Pacific
- 2013—Spread to Canada and the US with about 60 Universities participating

Success

"Participating in the 3MT competition has been an incredibly valuable experience, one that has changed the way that I think about my PhD. I was forced to consider the social and economic impacts of my research, and how our lives might be improved as a result. Seeing the bigger picture gave me new purpose and motivation for all those late nights in the lab." Matthew Thompson UQ & Trans-Tasman 3MT Winner, 2011

Motivation

- **Students:** Cash prizes, communication skills, exposure for research, feedback from judges, awards
- **Colleges:** Undergraduate recruiting, student’s professional development, exposure
- **University:** Exposure for grad research to other Universities/community, potential national recognition
3MT® Competition: Rules & Guidelines

Eligibility
Anyone who is active in a PhD or Master’s program (including thesis under submission) will be eligible to participate in 3MT. Graduates are not eligible (based on competition date).

Progression
There will be two 3MT® competition level: college and university. The top 2 contestants from the each college will compete in the university competition. The college competition will be administered by the respective college (see College 3MT® Competition section for more details). BYU Graduate Studies will administer the university-wide 3MT® competition.

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 (eg. 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 college and university level, each competitor will be judge on the three criteria listed below. Each criterion will be equally-weighted out of 10 points.

1. Comprehension
   - 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?
2. **Engagement**
   - 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?

3. **Communication**
   - 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 speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace; and have a confident stance?
   - Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?
   - Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible and concise?

**3MT® Trademark**

Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland. The logo is trademarked and strict guidelines are given its use. (They are provided [here.](#))

**College 3MT® Competition**

**Preparation**
   - **Event details:** Select date (end of January) and location for college event
   - **Judges:** Secure the judging panel
     - Must have at least 3 judge, and must odd number
     - At other universities, students appreciated having judges from industry.
   - **Encourage students to apply**
   - **Materials ([Download Here](#))** includes:
     - Countdown timer
     - Event description
     - Promotional slide
     - Judging sheets
     - People's Choice Ballot
     - Templates for name badges, order of proceedings, PowerPoint and run sheet
     - Participant spreadsheet
     - 2013 3MT Logo
   - **Training**
     - Graduate Student Society will hold two trainings around the end of Fall semester, which will be available as webinars in January
     - See Resource below
   - **Funding**
     - Graduate Studies will match up to $1000 to help with the college event
   - Can invite all students in college and community to the College 3MT® Competition
Competition

- Must have at least 6 contestants at college event
- Multiple heats may be done if necessary, but each heat should have at least 6 contestants.
- The events will be recorded for future use, and will be published online
- The judges will select the 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners, and the audience will select the People’s Choice (which could be one of the judge-select winners). Judging will be based on Judging Criteria (see that section) and will be on scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest
- Cash Prizes, although not require it are strongly recommend, to encourage participation
  - The matching funds from Graduate Studies could help with this
  - The university competition will have cash prizes as follows: 1st = $5k, 2nd = $2.5k, 3rd = $1k, People’s Choice = $1k.
- The judges provide written feedback to the competitors.
- Other universities have held a social/reception after the event to encourage discussion about the 3MT presentations.

Support from BYU Graduate Studies

- Match funds for help sponsor College 3MT® Competition: up to $1000
- Provide resources and support, including the GSS Presidency will be available to meet with colleges, departments, or individuals whenever requested

University 3MT® Competition

- Event details: Select date (end of February)
- The Graduate Student Society will advertise this event through students and university channels
- Prizes: 1st = $5k, 2nd = $2.5k, 3rd = $1k, People’s Choice = $1k.
- The events will be recorded for future use, and will be published online

Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Guidelines

Based on and Adapted from University of Melbourne¹

- The 3MT® must represent the original research of the competitor
- The authors of the 3MT® will retain all rights regarding its use at all times prior to and following the competition except as stated below
- Due to the nature of the competition, we will not ask judges, reviewers, staff or the audience to agree to or sign non-disclosure statements for any participant
- All public sessions of the competition, including but not limited to oral presentations, are open to the public at large. Any and all of these public sessions may be broadcast to interested persons through media which may include the Internet

• Any data or information discussed or divulged in public sessions by entrants should be considered information that will likely enter the public realm, and entrants should not assume any right of confidentiality in any data or information discussed, divulged or presented in these sessions. This means, if your research includes commercial-in-confidence or culturally sensitive material you should think very carefully about how you can present this information. We advise that you discuss your competition entry with the parties/s before entering the 3MT®

• Brigham Young University and the 3 Minute Thesis Competition may make photocopies, photographs, videotapes and/or audiotapes of the presentations or material prepared for use in presentation at the 3MT®

• The University may use the materials in any book or other printed materials and any videotape or other medium that it may produce, provided that any profits earned from the sale of such items is used by the University solely to defray the costs of future 3 Minute Thesis Competitions.

• Presenters must obtain permission to use anything that is not their own (e.g. an image, graph etc.) prior to competing in their heat.

Resources
3MT Official Website
3MT Material Package
Branding Guidelines

Presentation Skills
Making the Most of Your Three Minutes--University of British Columbia
How to present your thesis in 3 minutes
3MT Winners at other universities

Contact Information

BYU Graduate Student Society

http://gss.byu.edu/
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(801) 422-5124