3MT® Orientation and Tips

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Today’s Discussion:
• Overview of the 3MT® at Texas State
• Rules & Regulations
• Tips and Strategies
  – Familiarizing yourself with the 3MT®
  – Writing your 3MT® Presentation
  – Preparing your slide for the 3MT®
  – Preparing your presentation for the 3MT®
  – Seeing examples of winning 3MT® Presentations and slides

*NOTE: We will post the recording of this Shop Talk with the slides in a few days.
Overview

• Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a research communication program developed by The University of Queensland (UQ) in 2008. Graduate students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their research and its significance.

Why Compete?

Because the 3MT® competition:

• promotes presentation and communication skills;
• provides opportunities and feedback for students to work on explaining their research to a non-specialized audience; and,
• helps students hone their “elevator pitch” discussions of their theses or dissertations (especially useful for those students heading into job interviews!).
• 3MT® is an internationally known competition
• **Who** is doing the 3MT®?
• 86 different countries and over 250 universities in the United States
Eligibility

- Graduate students currently enrolled in a Texas State University dissertating doctoral program (PhD or EdD) or master’s thesis program are eligible to compete.

- The presentation must include findings/outcomes of research (that is, it can’t be a thesis or dissertation proposal that is presented, there must be at least preliminary findings or a pilot study to report).

- If a student participated in a 3MT® in a previous year, they are still eligible to participate in this year’s 3MT® unless you won First Place, Runner Up, or People’s Choice in the University Final in a previous year! However, winning in the preliminary rounds is fine in terms of competing again the following year.
Overview

• Instead of holding the preliminary round in front of a live audience, the preliminary round will be recorded and posted online for the entire Texas State community to vote on for the People’s Choice Award!

• Competitors will register for a time slot at YouStar Studios in Alkek One (contact the3mt@txstate.edu to reserve your video session). Students are permitted to record their 3MT® presentation up to three times during their recording time and will choose which recording will be seen by the preliminary judges and also posted online for voting.

• 3MT® preliminary presentation recordings will be randomly sorted into three groups. The purpose of the preliminary round is to advance the four top-scoring presentations in each group to the University Final. In each group, three presenters will be advanced based on official judges' scores, and the fourth presenter will be chosen by the university community through online voting (People's Choice Winner).

• The University Final competition is live and in person:
  October 27, 3-5:00 in the LBJ Ballroom, San Marcos campus
Preliminary Rounds

• Student competitors record their videos at YouStar: October 5, 6, 7, & 9

• Contact Lindsey Wilson (the3mt@txstate.edu) to reserve a time for your video recording session

• Preliminary round judges select their top three presentations: October 14 & 15

• University community votes on the People’s Choice winners: October 14-20

• Winners will be notified on October 21

• Then, it’s on to the final competition October 27, 3-5:00 in the LBJ Ballroom
2021 3MT® Structure:

Preliminary Group 1
(People’s Choice Voting
Online from 10/14-10/20)

Top Master’s Presentation: $150
Top Doctoral Presentation: $150
Overall Runner-up: $100
People’s Choice: $100

Preliminary Group 2
(People’s Choice Voting
Online from 10/14-10/20)

Top Master’s Presentation: $150
Top Doctoral Presentation: $150
Overall Runner-up: $100
People’s Choice: $100

Preliminary Group 3
(People’s Choice Voting
Online from 10/14-10/20)

Top Master’s Presentation: $150
Top Doctoral Presentation: $150
Overall Runner-up: $100
People’s Choice: $100

3MT® University Finals
Wednesday, October 27th, 2021

1st Place $1,000
Runner-up $500
People’s Choice $500
Presentation Rules

• A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or “movement” of any description, 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, notes, laser pointers) 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 platform.
• Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through 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 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 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?
Familiarizing Yourself with the 3MT®

***Watch/listen to/read captions from several prior 3MT® presentations.***

- Texas State Competitions from Previous Years: [https://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/events/3mt.html#past](https://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/events/3mt.html#past)
- World-wide 3MT® competitions:
  - UQ suggestions for competitors
  - [https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt](https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt)
- Other good examples:
  - CSI & Fingerprints
  - Meat Detective
  - Dementia
Writing Your 3MT® Presentation

- Write for a non-specialized audience
  - Avoid discipline-related jargon and acronyms
  - Make the audience curious about your research
  - Explain concepts that are important to understanding your research
  - When planning out your talk, take the approach of describing the research to a family member
  - Distill your key points
  - Connect your research to the big picture – why it matters in the grand scheme of things

- Know what your goal or outcome is for your audience – what do you want them to come away with?

- Tell the audience about your research like a story
  - Beginning, Middle, and End
  - Start with a hook
  - Perhaps begin with an analogy
  - Summarize as you near the end

- It’s not an academic paper
  - Impress with communication of ideas, not discipline-specific terms
Slide Preparation for the 3MT®

• Requirements
  – Use the widescreen (16:9) size for your slide (16:9 is the default for most PowerPoint versions)
  – **One slide** is permitted
  – The slide must be static (no moving parts, transitions, etc.)
  – The slide must be presented from the beginning of your presentation
  – No additional media are allowed (audio or video)

• Suggestions
  – “Less is more” – don’t overcomplicate your slide
  – The slide should illustrate an important point, but don’t make it so complicated that the audience is figuring out the slide instead of listening to you
  – If you are using an analogy in your talk, you may want to represent the analogy on the slide
  – Choose graphics that present an important point of your talk, but that do not require 2 minutes & 55 seconds of explanation
  – Think of the slide not as the main part of your presentation – that is your talk – but rather as a supporting visual aid
Presentation Preparation for the 3MT®

• Practice to Polish
  – With such a tight time frame, you don’t want to be searching for the perfect word while delivering the presentation. Plan what you want to say and practice it in front of people. Record yourself and listen to the recording.
  – Elicit feedback from peers on your talk and modify accordingly. If they are confused at all, so will be your 3MT® audience.

• Voice and Body Language
  – Speak clearly and confidently: this is your research, and you know it better than anyone.
  – Face the audience at all times – do not turn around to read something from the slide.
  – Use inflections in your voice to demonstrate emphasis and enthusiasm.
  – Don’t pace
  – Hand gestures are useful for emphasizing main points, but can be distracting if they are constant.

• Allow your personality and passion to come through
  – This is about your research!
Registration

• Students who are interested in competing in the 3MT® should sign up for the competition – registration is open and will close on September 27, 2021. Be sure to sign up well before the deadline if you are interested!

Preliminary Round Video Recording

• There are several days and times available for students to sign up and record their 3MT® presentation. Each student can record their presentation up to 3 times and will select which of their presentations they would like to be the official Prelim entry for voting
• Students registered to compete by the deadline will record their presentations in the YouStar Studio (San Marcos campus Alkek library) on the following dates: October 5, 6, 7, & 9 (contact Lindsey Wilson at the3mt@txstate.edu to reserve times in the studio)
YouStar Studios in Alkek One

• Email Lindsey Wilson, the3mt@txstate.edu, to set up your recording time. She will ask you to send your slide to her before your recording session. The slide is due Sept. 30th by 11:59 PM.

• The day of your recording session:
  – We recommend wearing professional attire
  – Arrive about 10 minutes early (plan for San Marcos traffic delays too!)

• BEFORE your recording session--we recommend that you visit the studio to get comfortable with how it looks and feels to present there; reserve a time to stop by and practice your presentation there
Our **2020 winner**:  
• Rezwan Matin, master’s student in Engineering, presenting “Autism and Emotions”
Our **2019 winner**:  
- Meagan Hoff, doctoral student in Developmental Education, presenting “The Initial Lie: Barriers to High Education for Refugees”
Examples of Slides

• Now, let’s look at some examples of Power Point slides used by previous 3MT® competitors.

• Think about what you like about them or how to improve them.

• Take what you like the most and apply those features to YOUR slide.
Drinking and driving...

Reduce?

Delay?
Part of the Family:
The Perceptions and Experiences of Students in an Ascender Learning Community

Presented by: Amber Sarker

**Ascender Program Aspects**

- Familia
- Validation
- Culturally Relevant

**Valued Student Experiences:**

- Meaningful Instruction
- Validation
- Other Ascender Program Aspects
To Boldly Join the Field of Science

Zachary L. Nolen
Telomere shortening: a human aging clock

Shubha Malla

Affected by: lifestyle, nutrition, genetics

Consequences: cells lose function

Telomere Length Declines in Dividing Cells as We Age

- telomere length in base pairs (human blood cells)

0 35 65
Age (years)
#MarchForOurLives: Mobilization of a Gun Control Movement on Twitter

Rachel Phillips, BS
Department of Sociology
Using Body Mass Estimation to Reunite Families

Elaine Y. Chu, BS
Department of Anthropology

Demographics

Estimated age: Late Teens/Young Adult
Minimum age: 15 years
Maximum age: 25 years
Race: Other
Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino
Sex: Male

Weight (pounds): Cannot Estimate
Height (inches): 67, Estimated

Operation Identification
numbers to name

Texas State University
The rising STAR of Texas
Commemorating Black Advocacy in the 21st Century:
Expanding the Definition of Memorialization

Krista Pollett, Department of History
Next Steps

- Inform your thesis/dissertation committee chair about your intent to compete.
- Register for 3MT®: https://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/events/3mt.html#register
- Start working on your presentation and slide.
- Schedule a time to record your preliminary round video in YouStar: the3mt@txstate.edu.
- Practice, practice, practice, practice. Practice with friends and family members. Practice in YouStar before doing your preliminary round video recording.
- ENTER ALL 3MT® DATES/DEADLINES into your calendar asap
- Contact us anytime with questions: the3mt@txstate.edu
- Get excited about this fantastic opportunity to showcase your work!