

BGSU Three Minute Thesis Competition

Please watch these videos to prepare for your 3MT

1. Winning Tips https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_1MK3Ub9QM
2. Single Slide Design <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybfRfPzsiQY>
3. University of Queensland 2011 [Winner](#).
4. Review the Competition Rules on our [website](#).

Preparing Your 3MT Slide

- Assume that you are presenting to a lay audience
- ONE single static PowerPoint slide is permitted
 - No slide transitions, animations, or "movement" of any kind is permitted
 - No additional electronic media (e.g. video or sound files) are permitted
 - No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, animals, etc.) are permitted
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps, songs, etc.)
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech

Writing Your 3MT (University of Queensland Guidelines)

- Write for your audience
 - Avoid jargon and academic language – assume that you are presenting to a lay audience
 - Explain concepts and people important to your research
 - Imagine that you are explaining your research to a close friend or fellow student from another field
 - Do not dumb down or devalue your research, what you are doing is exciting and you should convey enthusiasm for your subject
- Have a clear outcome in mind
 - Know what you want your audience to take away from your presentation
 - Ideally, you'd like the audience to leave with an understanding of what you are doing and why you're doing it
- What not to do
 - Do not write your presentation like an academic paper
 - Use shorter words, shorter sentences, and shorter paragraphs
 - You can use humor, but be careful not to dumb down your presentation
- Revise
 - Proof your presentation by reading it aloud
 - Time yourself
 - Give your presentation to someone who can provide feedback, whether a friend or colleague, or someone in your department
 - After presenting, ask if this person can understand what your research is and why it is important

Miscellaneous Suggestions

- Review the [3MT FAQ page](#) from University of Queensland
- SIMPLICITY IS KEY. Keep to the point, and don't try to cover too many things
- Use your voice to communicate clearly
- Speak loudly, slowly and clearly
 - Use pauses - do not be afraid of short periods of silence
- Have good posture
 - Stand straight and comfortably, do not slouch or shuffle around
- Dealing with nervousness
 - Smile, your audience will react warmly to you if you smile and at least look relaxed
 - Breathe deeply, it will calm you down & help to control the slight shaking that you might get in your hands or voice
 - Be organized, if you are well organized, your task will be easier
 - Slow down, when people are nervous, they tend to get confused. Make use of pauses: force yourself to stop at the end of a sentence, take a breath, and think before you continue.