The University-Wide Thesis Competition
Spring 2021 – 3MT Guidelines

Please watch these videos examples to prepare for your 3MT
1. Example 1
2. Example 2
3. Example 3

Preparing Your 3MT Slide
● Assume that you are presenting to a lay audience
● ONE single static PowerPoint slide is permitted
  o No slide transitions, animations, or ‘movement’ of any description are permitted
  o No additional electronic media (eg. video/sound files) are permitted
  o No additional props (eg. costumes, musical instruments, etc.) are permitted
● Presentations are to be spoken word (eg. no poems, songs, etc.)
● Your slide is to be presented from the beginning of your oration
● Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech

Writing Your 3MT (from University of Queensland guidelines)
● Write for your audience
  o Avoid jargon and academic language – assume that you are presenting to a lay audience
  o Explain concepts and people important to your research
  o Imagine that you are explaining your research to a close friend or fellow student from another field
  o 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
  o Know what you want your audience to take away from your presentation
  o 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
  o Do not write your presentation like an academic paper
  o Use shorter words, shorter sentences, and shorter paragraphs
  o You can use humor, but be careful not to dumb down your presentation
● Revise
  o Proof your presentation by reading it aloud
  o Time yourself
  o 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
Tips for Participating in a Virtual 3MT Competition

- University of Queensland - Guidance on participating in a virtual competition
- Temple University - Potential Zoom backgrounds

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
  - Treat your audience like friends
  - Breathe deeply. It will calm you down and help to control the slight shaking that you might get in your hands and your voice
  - Be organized. If you are well organized, your task will be easier
  - Slow down! When people are nervous, they tend to get confused easily. Make use of pauses: force yourself to stop at the end of a sentence, take a breath, and think before you continue.

If you need additional assistance with your presentation, please utilize university resources such as:

Temple Career Center
- Set up a “Networking/Strategy” appointment with Mark Kaloko
- Create an appointment on Handshake
- Email any questions to Mark Kaloko at mark.kaloko@temple.edu

The Writing Center
- The Writing Center can also be consulted for tips on communication
- Available for appointments and e-mail sessions
- Writing Center Website: https://studentsuccess.temple.edu/

Lynda.com
- Online resource for training on various programs, such as PowerPoint