

The University-Wide Thesis Competition Spring 2022 – 3MT Guidelines

Video examples to prepare for your 3MT

1. [Winning Tips for Preparing a Successful Three-Minute Thesis 3MT® Presentation](#)
2. [2018 3MT Asia Pacific Final Winner & People's Choice Winner](#)
3. [Temple University 3MT Competition \(Spring 2021\)](#)

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 description are permitted
 - No additional electronic media (eg. video/sound files) are permitted
 - 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
 - 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

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

- Create an appointment on [Handshake](#)
- Email any questions to Laura Craig at laura.craig@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
- Log-in at <https://lynda.temple.edu/default.aspx> using your AccessNet Username and Password



[Optional] Insert thumbnail of presentation slide

PRESENTER: _____

SCHOOL/INSTITUTE/FACULTY: _____

UNIVERSITY: _____

3MT TITLE: _____

CATEGORY 1: COMPREHENSION AND CONTENT

Strong 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Weak

Y / N	Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research question being addressed while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon?
Y / N	Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
Y / N	Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
Y / N	Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
Y / N	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?

CATEGORY 2: ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Strong 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Weak

Y / N	Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
Y / N	Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise their research?
Y / N	Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
Y / N	Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
Y / N	Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
Y / N	Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

TOTAL SCORE

Category 1 + Category 2 = ____ / 14

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

