

University of Houston 3MT Competitor Guide

This document provides information for UH 3MT contestants including the official rules of the competition, the judging criteria and links to helpful resources for preparing your 3MT presentation.

1) Official 3MT Rules ([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 (e.g. 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.

2) Judging Criteria ([3MT 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 thesis 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?

- 3) A great deal of additional information can be found at the official 3MT site ([Three Minute Thesis](#)) including useful FAQs and rules. Keep in mind that some of the rules specific to their competition will not be the same at University of Houston.

A few specific links from this site that may be of interest:

- Tips for a compelling 3MT presentation: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/resources/3mt-competitor-guide>
- Examples: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt>
- Judging criteria: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/resources/judging-criteria>

- 4) Other useful information and tips:

From Dr. Inger Mewburn, aka The Thesis Whisperer (<http://thesiswhisperer.com/>, on Twitter @thesiswhisperer). A general article on presenting your work in 3 minutes can be found here: <http://thesiswhisperer.com/2010/07/01/how-to-sell-your-thesis-in-3-minutes-or-less/>

Some more 3MT examples: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt>

This competitor guide is adapted from the official 3MT guide: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/resources/3mt-competitor-guide>