Tuesday, September 20th
5:00 – 6:15 p.m.

3MT® ORIENTATION AND TIPS

Presented by: Dr. Patti Giuffre, Assistant Dean of the Graduate College, and Austin Allen, Recruitment Specialist and our moderator
Agenda

- 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 on our previously recorded Shop Talks page.
What is 3MT®?

- What: 3MT® is an internationally known competition
- **Who** is doing the 3MT®?
- Where: 86 different countries and over 250 universities in the United States
- When is the Texas State competition?
  - Preliminary round: competition (recorded): October 10-15, 2022
  - Final competition (live, in person): November 4, 2022, 10:00-noon
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!).
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 research should be conducted while in your current Texas State graduate program.
• 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.
• For FAQs, see https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/events/3mt/faq.html
• If you participated in a 3MT® in a previous year, you 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.
Preliminary Round Overview

• 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).
  • Instructions for selecting a time slot to record will be provided to you once you register.
  • 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).
Preliminary Round Overview

• Student competitors record their videos at YouStar: October 11-15
  • I will send registrants an invitation to the 3MT Preliminary Round Scheduling Canvas site. You will select one (and only one) of the available times to record your preliminary round video.

• Preliminary round judges select their top three presentations: October 21-25

• University community votes on the People’s Choice winners: October 20-26

• Winners will be notified on October 27

• Then… it’s on to the final competition November 4, 10:00-noon, in the LBJ Grand Ballroom on the San Marcos campus
2022 3MT® Competition Structure

Preliminary Group 1
(People’s Choice Voting Online from 10/20-10/26)
- 1st Place Presentation: $200
- 2nd Place Presentation: $150
- Runner-up: $100
- People's Choice: $100

Preliminary Group 2
(People’s Choice Voting Online from 10/20-10/26)
- 1st Place Presentation: $200
- 2nd Place Presentation: $150
- Runner-up: $100
- People's Choice: $100

Preliminary Group 3
(People’s Choice Voting Online from 10/20-10/26)
- 1st Place Presentation: $200
- 2nd Place Presentation: $150
- Runner-up: $100
- People's Choice: $100

3MT® University Finals
Friday, November 4, 2022
- 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?

*For judging criteria and presentation rules, see [https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/events/3mt/judging-criteria.html](https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/events/3mt/judging-criteria.html)*
Familiarizing Yourself with the 3MT®

***Most importantly: 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

- World-wide 3MT® competitions:
  - UQ suggestions for competitors
    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

• Avoid a presentation style of an academic paper or a thesis or dissertation defense
  - 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 Power Point 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
- Create a simple but creative title
• **How about the title?**
  
  • The title does NOT have to be your official thesis or dissertation title.
  • In fact, give your title some thought. Be creative (but accurate as far as the topic).
  • You can make it “catchy” and appealing to a general audience.
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 for the 3MT®

Registration

• Students who are interested in competing in the 3MT® should sign up for the competition – registration is open and will close on October 3. This is a firm deadline. 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 Preliminary entry for voting.

• Once registered, The Graduate College 3MT® team will reach out to you about booking a date and time for your Preliminary Round recording session. For questions, please contact the3mt@txstate.edu.
YouStar Studios in Alkek One (San Marcos library)

• After you book your recording time, you will be asked to send your presentation slide BEFORE the recording session. All slides will be due Wednesday, October 5 by midnight (send slides to the3mt@txstate.edu).

• BEFORE your recording session—we **highly** recommend that you visit YouStar Studio to get comfortable with how it looks and feels to present there; reserve a time to stop by and *practice* your presentation there (or practice anything!). Take a friend for this practice session (but no one can come into the studio with you at your official recording session).

• The day of your recording session:
  - We recommend wearing professional attire
  - Arrive about 15 minutes early (plan ahead for San Marcos traffic delays)
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 you would improve them.

• Take what you like the most and apply those features to YOUR slide.
Telomere shortening: a human aging clock

Shubha Malla

An image of a cell with a nucleus and telomeres, leading to a candle burning, indicating aging. A bar graph shows telomere length declines in dividing cells as we age. Text below the image states:

- Affected by: lifestyle, nutrition, genetics
- Consequences: cells lose function
Using environmental-DNA to detect chytrid fungus in Ecuadorian cloud forests
Workplace Injustice: Catalyzing Organizational Change

Abbie Salcedo
Adult, Professional, and Community Education, PhD
Attribution Styles and Resilience in Adults

Natalie S. Tucker | nst20@txstate.edu
Master’s Program | Department of Psychology

Why did the event happen?

Attribution: a mental conclusion that explains why an event happened

Negative Bias → Poor outcomes

Neutral (Baseline)

Positive Bias

?
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. The slide for the preliminary round is due October 5, by midnight to the3mt@txstate.edu.

• Registered students will receive instructions on how to select a recording time very soon.

• 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!
Contact us with questions!
the3mt@txstate.edu

We wish you all the best!

Good luck!