

The University-Wide Thesis Competition Spring 2025 – 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
 - 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 commence from the stage
- 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

Miscellaneous Suggestions

- 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:

Graduate School

- 501 Carnell Hall
- Set up a “3MT Practice” appointment with Mark Kaloko
- Schedule appointments on Handshake

Temple Career Center

- Mitten Hall 220
- Set up a “3MT Practice” appointment with Robert McMahon
- Schedule appointments on Handshake

The Student Success Center

- Charles Library 230
- Available for drop-in sessions, appointments, and e-mail sessions
- <https://studentsuccess.temple.edu/>