Information for 3MT Participants

BACKGROUND:

Graduate students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their research and its significance. 3MT is not an exercise in trivializing or ‘dumbing-down’ research, but challenges students to consolidate their ideas and discoveries so they can be presented concisely to a non-specialist audience.

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) 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 movement or speech.
• The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Comprehension & Content
   • Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
   • Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
   • Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
   • Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
   • Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
   • 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?

2. Engagement
   • 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?

PEOPLE’S CHOICE:

An important aspect of the competition is the People’s Choice prize. Following all presentations, the audience is asked to vote on who they thought gave the most convincing 3MT presentation (based on their understanding of the criteria outline above). Details of the finalist will be provided to the audience via power point and using the voting paper is asked to select the number which corresponds to their favorite presenter. A finalist can be the winner or runner-up and still receive the People’s Choice award.