

AN 80,000 WORD THESIS  
WOULD TAKE 9 HOURS  
TO PRESENT.

THEIR TIME LIMIT... 3 MINUTES.

# THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

The University Of Toledo College Of Graduate Studies  
Proudly Announces  
The Inaugural 3MT® Competition in March 2018



The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is an academic competition developed by The University of Queensland (UQ), Australia for research students.

# Can you explain hundreds of hours of research ... in just 3 minutes?

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT<sup>®</sup>) is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland. The exercise develops academic presentation and research communication skills, and supports the development of research students' capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes in a language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience.



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# Why should you participate?

1. You can finally explain to your family and friends what you are doing
2. When you defend your thesis you will be more confident when communicating your ideas
3. During a job search you will be able to easily help potential employers understand your research quickly in language they understand, and project confidence during an interview
4. At conferences/networking events you can convey why your research is important to people not in your specific field
5. The fame, glory, and prizes, of course...



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# How will I be judged?

- **Communication style:** Was the topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specific audience?
- **Comprehension:** Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
- **Engagement:** Did the presentation make the audience want to know more?



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# Who is eligible to compete?



- **Doctoral Candidates:** currently registered in good standing; must have passed their qualifying exam and/or submitted their Application for Candidacy form



- **Master's Students:** currently registered in good standing; must have completed 3 semesters and submitted their GRAD form



- **Graduated students:** students who have already graduated are not eligible to compete, sorry.



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# What are the rules?

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or movement.
- No electronic media (sound/video files).
- No props (e.g. costumes, instruments, lab equipment, etc.)
- You get 3 minutes. Period. If you go over 3 minutes, you lose!
- Decision of judges are final.



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# Cool! Now what?

- Attend an information session and register to compete or volunteer
- Attend one or more prep sessions to help you summarize, write, and practice your presentation
- Compete in a preliminary round – top 2 advance to the final competition, 3<sup>rd</sup> place will compete in a “Wild Card” round and top 2 will have spots in the final competition
- The winner of the final will represent UT and compete in the regional 3MT<sup>®</sup> competition held on April 4<sup>th</sup> in Grand Rapids, MI. at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (expenses paid)
- The winner, runner-up, and People’s Choice winners will present at the Midwestern Graduate Research Symposium on April 7<sup>th</sup> by giving their presentations and sharing what they learned through the experience



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# Cool! How can I as a faculty member help?

- Email [teresa.green@utoledo.edu](mailto:teresa.green@utoledo.edu) to express your interest
- Join the planning committee and/or 'listserv' of volunteers
- What we need:
  - Prep workshop facilitation
  - Set-up of prelim-rounds (rooms reserved, judges selected)
  - Prelim-round facilitation
  - Your connections! This is an event that bridges the community with academia, and we want to invite community leaders to participate as judges and/or sponsors
  - Your promotion! This is our inaugural competition but we plan on it being an important signature event for UT in the years to come – so spread the news



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