Three Minute Thesis 101: What, When, How

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WHAT: IS 3MT?

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The Basics

- 180 seconds/ 3 minutes/ ~450 words
- 1 static powerpoint slide
  - No props or other media
  - No transitions or animations
  - No singing, rapping, etc.
- Present your research to a non-specialist audience
  - A panel of multidisciplinary judges
  - Faculty in other disciplines
  - York alumni
  - Other graduate students
  - Members of the public

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What's the Value of 3MT?

- Designed as an opportunity to showcase exciting graduate research
- Requires students to think beyond the boundaries of their usual presentation styles
  - Conference papers, Lectures, Tutorials
- Gives students the skills to talk about their research to anyone, and to make it both intelligible and interesting: the ultimate elevator pitch
  - Great preparation for job interviews, networking events, talking to people at conferences
- Share research with broad audiences
- …and there are prizes for winners

Eligibility

- Students must be registered in a research-based Master's (Thesis or MRP) or PhD program at the time of the 3MT competition, and must have made substantial progress on their research and analysis. Course-based Masters students are ineligible.
- PhD and Masters students who have defended, but have not convocated at the time of the York University 3MT competition, are eligible to participate.
- 3MT presentations must represent the student's primary research (i.e. thesis, dissertation, or MRP research).
- Presenters must agree to be video-recorded, and to allow those recordings to be made public (Ontario Finals only).

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Judging Criteria

Communication

- Clear language and terminology, presentation pace, non-verbal communication (i.e. eye contact, voice modulation, body language, etc.)
- Effective use of slide

Comprehension

- Conveying the nature, purpose and content of the scholarly research and creativity in a logical way

Engagement

- Inspiration, engagement, and enthusiasm about the research

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Competition Details

Prizes

- 1st place: $1,000
- 2nd place: $500
- 3rd place: $250
- People's Choice: $250

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HEARING FROM PAST PARTICIPANT

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WHEN: YORK AND PROVINCIAL 3MT

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York University Competition

2018 Schedule

PRELIMINARY HEATS

3MT Preliminary Heat (open to all disciplines)	Wednesday, March 21, 2018 - 10:00am-12:00pm 519 Kaneff Tower	Register
3MT Preliminary Heat: (open to all disciplines)	Thursday, March 22, 2018 10:00am-12:00pm 519 Kaneff Tower	Register
York University 3MT Finals Competition and Reception	Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:00-3:00pm Senate Chamber (940N Ross)	

PREPARATION WORKSHOPS

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) 101: What, When, How	Wednesday Feb. 21, 10:00–11:00am, 626 Kaneff Tower	Register
Creating a winning 3MT: "How to pitch a proposal" with Richard Phillips	Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1:00–3:00pm, 519 Kaneff Tower	Register

Slide Submission

- The powerpoint slide and the final title of the presentation needs to be submitted by no later than March 14 (one week before the Heats).

Provincial and National Competitions

The winner of the York Finals will compete in the 3MT Provincial, to be held on April 19, 2018.

This year, York Univeristy will be hosting the Provincial 3MT.

3MT Ontario Website: http://3mt-ontario.gradstudies.yorku.ca/

3MT: Examples

- York Finals 2017
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TyLKS9cd5k
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRjEGQ_W-cg

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Exercise 1

- What are the effective elements of the sample 3MT presentations?
- Think about
  - Comprehension & Content
  - Communication style
  - Audience engagement
  - What else?

General Tips

- Simple, but not simplified
- Clear language (jargon free and explain concepts, people, terminology)
- Shorter sentences, shorter paragraphs

Effective 3MT: An Engaging Opener

- Crafting the opener of your 3MT presentation
  - Introducing your research topic
  - Draw the interest of audiences (relating to a broad topic of interest, personal stories, etc.)

Effective 3MT: Impact

- Articulating the importance of your research
  - Why should people care about your research
  - What's the connection between your research and the world?
    - In other words, why does your research matter?
  - What did you find that may change the world (even in a slightest way)?

Presentation Strategies

- Audience engagement
- Clear and confident body language
- Good posture
- Facial expression, eye contact
- Strong and steady voice projection
    - No nervous tics Um, ah, like
    - Playing with jewelry/hair/clothing
    - Pacing or, conversely, standing in one place
- No notes or prompts
- No looking back at the PowerPoint

Giving your 3MT a Title

- Short and snappy
- Attention grabbing
- Jargon-free
- NOT the title of your actual thesis/dissertation

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The Slide

- Use visuals to support (and not to distract from) the story you're telling in your presentation
- Avoid clutter
- Make it visually engaging
- Use as little text as possible

Exercise 2

Share your research with peers. In doing so, explain:

- Your research topic
- Major findings
- Impact of your research

… in 3 minutes (if possible!)

Questions?

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