Three Minute Thesis Competition, IU Bloomington 2019

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is a research presentation competition founded by the University of Queensland in 2008. The competition challenges masters and doctoral students to present a compelling oration on their thesis or dissertation research and its significance to an educated but non-specialist audience in just three minutes.

IU Bloomington will host its annual Three Minute Thesis Competition on Thursday, February 28, at 4:00 p.m. in the IMU Frangipani Room.

Stipends will be awarded to the top three presentations as chosen by a panel of judges and, for the People’s Choice Award, by audience ballot:

Winner: $500
Runner Up: $250
People’s Choice: $250

The first place winner will advance to compete at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) regional 3MT competition on March 22, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. All travel and registration expenses will be covered by the University Graduate School. By entering the IUB event, students agree to participate in the MAGS regional competition if selected. In the event the first place winner is unable to compete at MAGS, the runner up will be nominated to participate.

Eligibility

Current IUB master’s and doctoral students engaged in their thesis, dissertation, or culminating project research are eligible to compete. Presentations must be based on thesis or dissertation research or (in the case of non-thesis master’s students) on a culminating research project as required by the program of study.

Rules

1. A single, static PowerPoint slide is required. No slide transitions or animations are permitted. The slide will be projected throughout the student’s presentation. Examples of presentation slides will be provided to registrants.
2. Students are allowed a single index 3x5” index card for notes, though they are encouraged to present without.
3. No additional electronic media (e.g., sound or video files) are permitted.
4. No additional props (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment, pointers) are permitted.
5. Presentations must be held within the three-minute time limit to remain in qualification. A timer will be displayed on a monitor at the front of the room.
6. Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs) and will commence from the front of the room.

**Judging Criteria**

1. Comprehension & Content
   a) Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
   b) Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
   c) Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
   d) Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
   e) Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
   f) 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 & Communication
   a) Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
   b) Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
   c) Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
   d) Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
   e) Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
   f) Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?