2017 Competition Rules

Eligibility

• Students must be registered in a Masters (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 yet convocated, are eligible to participate.
• 3MT® presentations must represent the primary research the student conducted in his/her graduate program.
• Competitors must present in person, agree to be video-recorded, and to allow those recordings to be made public.

Judging Criteria

At every level of the competition, each competitor’s presentation will be assessed according to the criteria listed below. Please note that each criterion is equally weighted.

Comprehension:
• Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
• Did the presenter clearly outline the nature and aims of research?
• Did the presenter clearly indicate what was significant about this research?
• Did the presentation follow a logical sequence?

Engagement
• Did the presentation make the audience want to know more?
• Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or ‘dumb down’ the research?
• Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for the research?
• Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience’s attention?
• Would the audience want to know more about the speaker’s research?

Communication
• Was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
• Did the speaker use sufficient eye contact and vocal range, maintain a steady pace, and exhibit a confident stance?
• Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology that needed to be used, and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
• Did the presenter spend the right amount of time on each element of the presentation – or did the presenter elaborate for too long on some elements or was the presenter rushed to get through the presentation?
• Did the slide enhance, rather than detract from, the presentation; and was it clear, legible, and concise?

Rules

• A single, static slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or movement of any description are allowed), and the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration and remain in view for the duration of the oration.
• No additional electronic media (e.g., sound and/or video files) are permitted.
• No 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 in standard oratory prose (i.e., no poems, raps, or songs, other than those that may be the target of research).
• Presentations are to commence from the stage.
• Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts the presentation through movement or speech.
• Presentations must be made by memory; notes may not be used.
• The decision of the judging panel is final.
• The competition will be administered in English.
Confidentiality and Intellectual Property considerations:

Students must understand that the presentation of their research in 3MT® will be publically accessible (i.e., in the public domain).

The presentation of the research will not affect any pre-existing rights following the competition, except as stated below:

- Due to the nature of the competition, we will not ask judges, reviewers, staff, or the audience to sign non-disclosure agreements. If your research is being/has been conducted under contract with an outside sponsor, students should discuss the related contractual terms of confidentiality and intellectual property with their supervisor(s) before entering the 3MT®.

- All public sessions of the competition, including but not limited to oral presentations, are open to the public at large. Any and all of these public sessions may be broadcast to interested persons through a variety of media, including the internet.

- Any data or information discussed or presented in public sessions should be considered ‘public.’ If your research includes confidential or culturally sensitive material, students should discuss your competition entry with their supervisor(s) before entering the 3MT®.

The University of Guelph, in coordinating the 3MT® Competition, may take photographs, videotapes, and/or audiotapes, or make transcripts of the presentations, material prepared for use in presentation at the 3MT®, and any 3MT® related events for promotional purposes and to support knowledge mobilization.
FAQs – Students

Q – What proportion of my degree has to have a research component for me to be eligible to compete?

A – You are eligible to compete if your degree involves a thesis, major research paper (MRP) or dissertation. If your program is course based, you are not eligible.

Q – I was a student at the time of my competition at my university, but will graduate before the Ontario competition. Am I eligible to enter?

A – Yes. If you are eligible at the time of your university’s competition, you will remain eligible for the Ontario competition, regardless of your program status.

Q – I have participated in the Ontario 3MT® before. Can I participate more than once?

A – Yes. The winner of their university final will be expected to attend the Ontario competition in person as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

Q – Can I present my oration via Skype?

A – This decision rests with your university. The winner of the university final will be expected to attend the Ontario competition in person.

Q – Can I present my oration as a poem, rap or song?

A – No, 3MT® is primarily about developing students’ oration skills.

Q – Can I use a laser pointer or note cards?

A – No, a laser pointer and/or note cards are not allowed.

Q – Does my slide have to be in PowerPoint?

A – Yes, as the preferred format, all slides will be collated into a single PowerPoint presentation for the competition.

Q – How many transitions or animations can I have in my slide?

A – None, the slide must be static and not change in any way during the presentation. Your slide must be displayed for the duration of your presentation.
Q – Do I have to use a slide?
A – No, the slide is optional as the emphasis is on the oration.

Q – What happens if my presentation is longer than 3 minutes?
A – In all finals, a 30-second warning will be provided to competitors (a coloured card held up by the timekeeper) and a bell will sound at the three minute limit. If a presenter continues to speak after the bell they will be automatically disqualified.

Q – Is there a dress code?
A – There is no stipulated dress requirement such as “smart casual”. Please wear whatever is comfortable for you. NO COSTUMES (including hats, masks, etc).

Q Will I be able to see a countdown-timer at my final?
A – As each competition is organized by each college, we would recommend that you contact your event coordinator in your college or the Office of Graduate Studies (in the case of the university final heat) for further information

Q – What happens if I cannot attend the Final?
A – The winner of each heat or final is expected to represent their College/University at the next stage of the competition. If the winner is unable to attend the final, the runner-up will proceed to the next round of the competition.

FURTHER INFORMATION
If you have any queries about the University of Guelph 3MT® competition, please contact Alex Boughen, Office of Graduate Studies, University of Guelph at aboughen@uoguelph.ca