



THE THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCT 18, AT NERA 2023

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NERA 2023 CONFERENCE

- October 18-20, 2023
- This year's theme: *Where do we go from here? Shaping the future of education together*
- We have a variety of presentation formats, including paper, poster, and roundtable sessions affording you the opportunity to connect with colleagues in so many ways while moving your own expertise and the field forward.
- Another way to make a memorable impression is the [Three Minute Thesis](#)

BACKGROUND



- Communicating clearly and effectively about one's research – particularly within a limited time frame – is a key skill, yet many researchers at all levels struggle with doing this well.
- As we continue to increase our focus on communicating research to varied audiences, the ability to explain complicated studies and findings in ways that are comprehensible is particularly valuable.
- With these skills in mind, NERA is once again hosting its Three Minute Thesis competition at the 2023 conference.

WHAT IS THE THREE MINUTE THESIS?

- The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is an academic competition that assists graduate students and professionals with fostering effective presentation and communication skills.
- Participants will have three minutes to explain the breadth and significance of their research project to a non-specialist audience.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 3MT



- Developed by The University of Queensland in 2008
- Now held in more than 600 universities in 65 countries around the world
 - 250 universities in the United States



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
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KEY REQUIREMENTS OF THE 3MT

- Presentations are limited to **3 minutes** max.
- A **single** static PowerPoint slide is permitted.
- Presentations are to be **spoken word**.
- No additional electronic media or props permitted.



SUMMARY OF JUDGING CRITERIA

- **Comprehension & Content**

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research question being addressed, while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation? Did they elaborate for too long on one aspect, or was the presentation rushed?

SUMMARY OF JUDGING CRITERIA

- **Engagement & Communication**

- 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?

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- Slide Design
- Zeroing in your key points
- Practicing the time frame
- Effective demeanor



HOW WILL THE 3MT WORK?

- The 3MT will be held on **Wednesday evening** as part of the Welcome Reception
- A **surprise host** will introduce each presenter
- Each presenter will speak for **3 minutes** (timed)
- A **panel of 3-5 judges** will deliberate and rate each thesis independently
- Audience will determine **“People’s Choice”** award
- **Prizes** (and fame) for the winners!

BE BOLD AND JOIN THE COMPETITION

- We hope that you will consider being part of this fun and exciting competition.
- Contestants will receive detailed information about the requirements and judging criteria prior to the conference.
- We hope to have a diverse group of topics and presenters.
- Please email any questions to nera.cochairs@gmail.com

SIGN UP HERE!