

# NERA

NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



# THE THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

NERA 2022 Annual Meeting

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# 2022 NERA ANNUAL MEETING

- ▶ October 19-21
  - ▶ This year's theme: Supporting Students in a Dynamic Learning Environment
  - ▶ We are hard at work planning the first in-person conference since 2019 that will allow attendees to share their research, connect with colleagues, and participate in creative and exciting activities
  - ▶ One of these is the **Three Minute Thesis**
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# 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 compressible is particularly valuable.

With these skills in mind, NERA will be continuing its *Three Minute Thesis* competition at the 2022 Annual Meeting!



# WHAT IS THE THREE MINUTE THESIS?

- ▶ The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is an academic competition that assists current graduate students 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



# KEY REQUIREMENTS OF THE 3MT

- ▶ Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum.
- ▶ A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted.
- ▶ Presentations are to be spoken word.
- ▶ No additional electronic media or props are 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 on 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
  - ▶ **Two competition categories**: Graduate students and Professionals
  - ▶ **Five competitors** in each group
  - ▶ A panel of **3-5 judges** for each group
  - ▶ **“People’s Choice”** also chosen for each group
  - ▶ **Prizes** for the winners!
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# 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 in both the graduate student and professional categories
- ▶ Please email any questions to the co-chairs at [nera.cochairs@gmail.com](mailto:nera.cochairs@gmail.com)

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