



**National Taiwan University and the Academic Writing Education Center Present
2018 3MT Competition**

IMPORTANT LINKS

NTU Academic Writing Education Center Official 2018 3MT Event Page:

<https://goo.gl/dwxo7k>

2018 3MT Facebook Participant Training & Advice Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/108177613038161/>

University of Queensland World Showcase of 3MT Winners (videos):

<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/watch-3mt>

What is the Three-Minute Thesis Competition?

The Three-Minute Thesis (3MT), originating at the University of Queensland, Australia, is an international ~~research~~ communication competition that challenges higher-degree students to present to an intelligent but non-specialist audience on the ideas they are researching, the new knowledge they are hoping to find, and the contribution they hope to make in their careers.

The 3MT Competition is held at some of the top-ranking universities in the world. In 2015, National Taiwan University (NTU) became the first authorized 3MT participant in Taiwan, and this year, in the fourth annual event, NTU invites National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) and National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST) to compete in a rematch.

NTU's Academic Writing Education Center (the AWEC) invites all graduate research students currently enrolled in these three universities to present your original research ideas in an easy-to-understand language in front of a live audience in no more than three minutes. During your presentation, you will concisely convey your research ideas and explain their value and importance to the world. The NTU 3MT is an intellectual and professional challenge to communicate your research to a public and professional audience.

Who can participate?

All currently-enrolled NTU System schools (NTU, NTNU and NTUST) graduate students who are conducting original research or have publications that can contribute to their future theses/dissertations are eligible.

How does the competition work?

There are two rounds of competition. In the preliminary round, you will submit a video-taped audition of your 3MT presentation as well as a file copy of your slide. Up to twelve candidates will be selected to compete in the final event. If any finalist is unable to attend the final event, the next runner-up in the preliminary round will take his or her place. The final event will be held in front of a live audience.

Here are the procedures to help you prepare for the competition:

Preliminary Round

1. Learn how to create a 3MT presentation:
 - a. Watch 3MT from around the world at <http://threeminutethesis.org/3mt-showcase>.
 - b. Visit the event webpage (<https://goo.gl/dwxo7k>) for the information on the 3MT presentation.
 - c. Watch 3MT information seminar (3/8 online) and attend the presentation seminar (4/9 at NTNU, 4/9 at NTUST, 4/13 at NTU).
2. Rehearse your 3MT:
 - a. Practice in front of your friends and ask for feedback.
 - b. Record your voice to help improve your pronunciation and intonation.
 - c. Practice in front of a mirror to see your body language and facial expressions.
 - d. Make sure you practice the timing – NO MORE THAN 3 MINUTES.
 - e. Get a coach to help you.
3. Learn how to format your file and what to do in your video:
 - a. Prepare one single static PowerPoint slide no larger than 5MB. A slide is optional.
 - b. Produce one video in an MP4 or other Youtube-compatible formats.
 - c. State in English your full name, graduate program, and the title of the presentation at the very beginning of the video. The time it takes to do this will not be counted against the three minutes you may take to present your research.
4. Register and submit the link and PPT file by 12 noon, April 23:
 - a. Upload your video to YouTube and make sure to change the setting to “Unlisted” in the drop-down menu. Once your video is uploaded, do not re-upload.
 - b. Go to the event webpage (<https://goo.gl/dwxo7k>) and click “Register.”
 - c. Fill in your personal information and Youtube video link and upload your PPT file.
 - d. Click “Submit” after all the required blanks have been filled in.
 - e. Check your email for a confirmation email from the AWEC.

Final Round

1. Come to the AWEC to draw lots for turn by May 4. Notify by email the AWEC if you cannot attend the final event (ntuawec@ntu.edu.tw).
2. Change your presentation title to a public style; you can also make small change to your content before the event.

What are the rules?

The rules for the 3MT Competition are as follows:

1. One single static PowerPoint slide is allowed. The slide must be presented from the beginning of the presentation. No slide transitions, animations or movements of any description are allowed.
2. No additional electronic media (e.g. sound or video files) are allowed.
3. No additional props (e.g. laser pointers, costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment, or tables) are allowed.
4. Presentations must be ended within three minutes. Competitors exceeding three minutes will be disqualified.
5. Presentations must be orally given; no poetry-reciting or singing is allowed.
6. Presentations must commence from the presentation stage or platform.

7. Presentation timing commences when competitors start their presentations through either movement or speech.
8. The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

What are the judging criteria?

The 3MT judges will consider the two main aspects regarding your 3MT presentation:

I. Comprehension & Content

1. Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
2. Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
3. Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
4. Was the content communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
5. Did the speaker avoid scientific/specialist jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
6. 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?

II. Engagement & Communication

1. Did the presenter make the audience want to know more?
2. Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
3. Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
4. Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
5. Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range, maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
6. Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

Are there any prizes?

One winner, one first and one second runner-up plus one winner of Audience Choice Award will be announced and awarded in the final event. First prize is \$14,000; First runner up \$12,000; Second runner up \$ 10,000; Audience Choice \$ 8,000.

FAQs

Q: Can I receive advice or coaching in preparing my 3MT presentation?

A: Yes, coaching is allowed; however, you will need to arrange your own coaching. The 3MT and the AWEC do not offer personal coaching. It is highly recommended to attend the 3MT information seminar and training workshops held by the AWEC on your campus to know more about the competition (see schedule and dates below). You should also join the 3MT Facebook page where you will find more advice, tips, and examples: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/108177613038161/>

Q: Can I change the topic of my 3MT after I have been qualified as a finalist?

A: No. You cannot change the topic or make any major changes to your originally-submitted video presentation. However, small adjustments to the language based on coaching advice are allowed. Also, if your presentation title is too technical, you will want to change it to a more “public” title for the finals.

Q: Do I have to announce my results?

A: This is up to you. The rules do not require that you explicitly present your results. However, if you do have preliminary or final key results, you should consider how interesting they might be to the audience. Alternatively, you can predict your research outcomes.

Q: Can I refer to palm cards or speech notes during my presentation?

A: Yes, palm cards and/or speech notes are acceptable. However, this option might lessen the quality of your 3MT delivery, hence not recommended.

Q: Is there a dress code?

A: There is no stipulated dress requirement. Consider, however, how much your appearance contributes to the overall persuasiveness of your delivery. No costumes are allowed (e.g. hats, masks, wigs, fake glasses, etc.).

Q: What is allowed on my 3MT PowerPoint slide?

A: You are allowed to have one single static PowerPoint slide. The slide might be used interactively, to show a process for example, or as an illustration of the theme. Remember that visual cues can be very effective in assisting your explanation of your ideas.

Q: Although I cannot deliver my 3MT as a poem or song, can I quote from a poem or song?

A: Yes, you can include quotes from a poem or song if they are relevant to your 3MT topic. However, you are not allowed to use poetry and song lyrics to present your entire 3MT.

(NOTE: This event will be recorded. Finalists in the 2018 NTU 3MT Competition must give prior permission for their presentation to be used for future 3MT promotions. The winning presentation will also be posted to the online Queensland University 3MT Showcase.)

KEY DATES:

- March 8 Information Seminars:
3/8 online
- April 9~13 Presentation Seminars:
4/9 at NTNU, 4/9 at NTUST, 4/13 at NTU
- April 9 Open Registration
- April 23 (Noon) Video Submission Deadline
- May 1 Finalist Announcement
- May 2~4 Deadline for Notification of Attendance Decision and Lot Drawing
- May 10 Final Event

