PREPARING A 3MT PRESENTATION

RESOURCE ADAPTED FROM UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA
STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR NARRATIVE
WRITE FOR YOUR AUDIENCE

- Avoid jargon and academic language.

- Explain concepts and people important to your research.
  - Imagine that you are explaining your research to a close friend or fellow student from another field.

- Highlight the outcomes of your research, and why it matters.

- Convey your excitement and enthusiasm for your subject!
Tell a Story

- Present your 3MT as a narrative, with a beginning, middle and end.

- Break your presentation down into smaller sections.

- Write an opener that catches the attention of the audience.
  - Then, highlight the different points you’d like to make.
  - Finally, be sure to restate the importance of your work at the end.
HAVE A CLEAR OUTCOME IN MIND

- Know what you want your audience to take away from your presentation.

- Try to leave the audience with an understanding of:
  - what you’re doing
  - why it is important
  - what you hope to achieve
REVISE

- Proof your 3MT presentation by reading it aloud, to yourself.
- Practice in front of friends and family.
- Ask for and be open to feedback about your presentation.
- Ask your practice audience if your presentation clearly highlights what your research is about and why it is important.
STEP 2: PREPARE YOUR SLIDE
Before you start work on your slide, you should take the following rules into account:

- You may use one, and only one slide
- No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any kind may be used
- Your slide must be presented at the beginning of your talk
- No sound or video files are permitted
A FEW TIPS

- **Less is more**: text and complicated graphics can distract your audience.

- **Creativity drives interest**: do not rely on your slide to convey your message – it should simply complement your presentation.

- **Work your message**: is it possible for your slide to assist with the format and delivery of your presentation – is there a metaphor that helps explain your research?

- **Clarity is critical**: An engaging slide can make or break any talk, so be sure your slide is legible, clear, and concise.
WHAT TO STRIVE FOR!

Now
- plastics
- medicines
- other goods

My PhD
- hydrogen peroxide
- limonene
- carbon dioxide
- nitrogen containing compounds
- polyurethanes

Future

Slide Katarzyna Smug’s talk - Oranges versus crude oil. Can we reduce the usage of crude oil by using plants?

A finalist from the United Kingdom national competition
ANOTHER GOOD EXAMPLE!

Slide from Gregory Lui’s talk – Photocatalysts: Developing Green Technologies Using the Power of Sun
A finalist from the Canadian national competition
WHAT TO AVOID

“Why Having a Really Long and/or Complex 3MT Title is Not a Good Idea and the Reasons Why You Should Stick With Something Short, Sharp, Punny and Memorable.”

MORE WORDS, SO MANY WORDS. DID YOU KNOW A TYPICAL THESIS IS AROUND 60,000 WORDS? WOW. THAT’S A LOT OF WORDS.

Here’s a lot of text with a lot of numbers like 15,698 + 103,77%. Who likes percentages? I do! 26% of 33 years olds reading this agree that 118% of this part of the slide should go.
STEP 3: PREPARE YOUR PRESENTATION
Then practice again and again and again.

Feeling nervous before you present is natural and can even be beneficial to your presentation.

The more you practice the more confident and clear you will be on April 31st.

Practicing will also help you gauge the timing of your 3MT so that you keep within the time limit.

Record and listen to your presentation to hear where you pause, speak too quickly or get it just right.
  - Then work on your weaknesses and exploit your strengths.
VOCAL RANGE

- Speak clearly and use variety in your voice (fast/slow, loud/soft).
- Do not rush – find your rhythm.
- Do not talk slower than you normally do – it is better to run short than to stall for time.
- Strategically pause at key points, it gives the audience time to think about what you are saying.
BODY LANGUAGE

- Stand straight and confidently.
- Hold your head up and make eye contact.
- Never turn your back to the audience.
- Practice how you will use your hands and move around while you give your talk.
- Do not make the common mistakes of rolling back and forth on your heels, pacing, or playing with your hair.
MISCELLANEOUS TIPS

- There is no dress code.
  - If you are unsure of how to dress, dress like you would for a job interview or an important meeting.
  - It is important that you feel comfortable so you can focus on your presentation.

- Props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are against the rules.

- Palm cards/speech notes can be used.

- Quotes can be used if they are relevant to the presenter's topic.
EVALUATING A 3MT PRESENTATION
HOW YOUR PRESENTATION WILL BE JUDGED

- Comprehension and content
  - Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance?
  - Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research?
  - Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
  - Was the 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 - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?
Engagement and communication

- Did 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?