## Introduction

Problem: While electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) are more readily accessible than ever before, the format, length, and general communication style of the ETD continue to pose barriers to large-scale diffusion of the research contained therein. But, what if there were a way to change that?

Solution: An 80,000 word thesis would take hours to present. Their time limit... 3 MINUTES

## Developing academic, presentation and research communications skills

### Communicating research in layman terms

#### Planning & Marketing
- Register at 3minutethesis.org
- Access logos, materials, and guidelines
- Learn from other competitions
- Advertise, advertise, advertise

#### Student Preparation
- 2 seminars
- Small group activities
- Focus on research communication skills

#### Prelims
- Open to general public
- 24 competitors
- 10 minute time slots
- Judging panel critiques
- Top 6 advance to finals

#### Finals
- Winner receives $400 and advances to Conference of Southern Graduate Schools’ 3MT® competition
- People’s Choice and runner-up receive $200

---

### Judging Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication Style</th>
<th>Comprehension</th>
<th>Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Was the topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience?</td>
<td>Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?</td>
<td>Did the oration make the audience want to know more?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 points

---

### Connecting 3MT® to Digital Libraries

As students generally engage in 3MT® efforts prior to or parallel with completing their degree programs, the program holds the potential – through collaborations among the Graduate School, Library, and others – to demonstrate to participants the value of scholarly communications and ETD collections, as well as enrich the ETD with video that is succinct and more broadly appealing.

- Highlight ETD collection at competitions
- Build OA and Scholarly Communications into professional development
- Record videos and upload or link with ETD record

---

### Eligibility & Rules

Eligibility: Doctoral and Master’s Thesis students nearing the end of their graduate work

Competition Rules:
- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or ‘movement’ of any description.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files).
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment).
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum; competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts his or her presentation through either movement or speech.

---

For Further Information
You can contact Laura Hammons at lhammons@tamu.edu. You can visit the Texas A&M University Office of Graduate and Professional Studies website at http://ogaps.tamu.edu.

---

See additional photos at http://bit.ly/3MT09

I would like to acknowledge Joelle Muenich, Dr. Kelly Lemmons, Hao Li, and Shavone Jones for their input and assistance with this project.