

## WELCOME TO THE AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY 3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

### Summary of key components of the 3MT:

- Why should the audience care?
- What is your idea?
- What is the basic study design?
- What are your results?
- What is the impact of your findings?
- The slide

HOT LINKS:	Comprehension and Content
<a href="#">Example Vid 1 (4:12)</a>	Catching the silent thief of sight
<a href="#">Example vid 2 (3:40)</a>	Meat CSI: Detecting Culprit Species In Meat Products
<a href="#">Example vid 3 (3:40)</a>	Using good cholesterol to treat Alzheimer’s disease
<a href="#">Example Vid 4 (3:00)</a>	Using Stem Cells to Model and Treat Cardiovascular Disease
<a href="#">YouTube videos</a>	Take the time to watch as many videos as possible. You will see a trend that all have in common, and will learn what works and what does not <b>before</b> putting time into your own.
<a href="#">AU-3MT participants</a>	Inaugural 2017, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual 2018, 3rd Annual 2019
Engagement and Communication	
<a href="#">3MT Tips (video 4:34)</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Put the time and thought into your slide”: It should help explain your thesis in ways that words/speaking cannot.</li> <li>2. “Change or save the world”: Convey why you are passionate about your work and also why it is important to them (the audience).</li> <li>3. “let it go”- Practice, practice, practice, and then don’t worry.</li> </ol>
<a href="#">3MT Presentation Tips</a> (stop at 2:28)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Know your material thoroughly - PRACTICE!</li> <li>2. Dress for success – PROFESSIONAL</li> <li>3. Speak with conviction – SPEAK CLEARLY, BELIEVE what you’re saying NO MONOTONE</li> <li>4. Body Language is important – STAND STRAIGHT AND CONFIDENT, AVOID DISTRACTIVE BEHAVIOR (pacing, rocking, playing with hair)</li> </ol>
<a href="#">Communication Tips</a> <a href="#">Using your Hands</a>	These videos contain good advice to improve presentation skills, but are not specific to the 3MT format.

## Explaining scientific concepts to the non-specialist audience.

Once you have determined how your research affects the general public and can convince them that it is worth doing, you then need to educate them in order to understand your hypothesis. After that you will find that you need to further educate them about the tools that you are using to test your hypothesis. Below are a few rules of thumb to help you educate a non-scientific audience to bring them a little closer to your world.

### **Rule 1.**

- Avoid all technical jargon, and only introduce **essential** terms or concepts.
- Use objects, experiences or metaphors that are familiar to the general non-scientist.

### **Rule 2.**

- Describe your research at the audience's level of understanding by bringing it up to their level.
- They are intelligent people, so don't "dumb down". Embrace the complex!

### **Rule 3.**

- Do not bring the audience down into the weeds or try to make them experts in your field.
- Only teach the concepts or processes that are essential for the audience to understand your research.

### ***When considering what to teach your audience, ask yourself:***

- Is it something critical to know in order to understand what or why you are doing something in your research?
- Is it something critical to know in order to be able to understand what the results are, and how you will draw conclusions from them?

If you answer "not really" or hesitate before saying "yes it is important" then put it aside and focus on those things that are clearly central to everything that you do.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate program: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Title of Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_

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### COMPONENTS OF YOUR 3MT PRESENTATION

- (1) Why are you asking the question? (Why should the audience care about it?)
  
- (2) What is your idea or hypothesis? (What makes your research interesting and worth doing?)
  
- (3) How will you set about answering the question? (What is the basic study design?)
  
- (4) What have you found and what do you expect to find? (What are your results?)
  
- (5) What is the impact of your findings? (How do your conclusions benefit the audience?)

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- (4) What have you found and what do you expect to find? (What are your results?)
  
- (5) What is the impact of your findings? (How do your conclusions benefit the audience?)