

# 3 Minute Thesis

Learning Strategies Development

[www.queensu.ca/learningstrategies](http://www.queensu.ca/learningstrategies)



Characteristics of a BAD presentation?

Think *differently* about your work

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) 2011 Winner - Matthew  
Thompson, University of Western Australia



**3MT:  
3 minutes, 1 slide,  
~600 words**

**“WHY?”**

**Simple, Unexpected, Emotional,  
Story, Concrete**

# Simplicity

“The purpose of my research is...”

*(WHY did I start this research?)*

Write 50 words – 4 minutes

Share with partner – 2 min.

Respond – 3 min.

# Engage Emotion

“Can you link your research to a current issue or self-interest of the audience?”

And / Or

“Is there an aspect that is counter-intuitive, surprising or challenges common sense?”

*(WHY might the audience care or be interested?)*

Write 2 sentences – 3 minutes

Share - 2 min.

Respond – 3 min.

# Concrete

Is there a visual metaphor to capture the essence, on 1 slide?

Think or draw for 2 minutes.

Share for 2 min.

Respond for 3 min.

# Stories

“Can you use a story to build curiosity about your research?”

*(WHY might audience want to learn more?)*

Write theme of a story – 4 minutes

Share – 2 min.

Respond – 3 min.



# What made this 3MT a winner?

- Simple
- Unexpected
- Emotional
- Story
- Concrete

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvjPzsLlyGw&feature=share>

# Winning 3MT Presentations

## 1. Understand the target groups

- audience: curiosity  
understanding of WHY
- judges: clear thinking & communication  
respect for complexity of research  
implications of research

# Winning 3MTs con't

## 2. Understand the task

### 3MT

core idea

significance

lay language

no data

schema in mind

### lecture, conference

breadth, depth

method, results

scientific jargon

analysis, data

organize in ppt

# 3.Practice

- Get feedback
- Video record and critique?

# Winning 3MTs con't

## 4. Presentation style

- Voice: vary tone

pause

project

- Body: eye contact

gesture & move intentionally

# Coping with “Nerves”

In advance: prepare & practice

During: Unlock your knees

Visualize yourself as a “good speaker”

BREATHE

# Thank you and good luck 😊

- Feedback form
- More info. on presentation skills

<http://www.queensu.ca/learningstrategies/undergrad/presentation.html>

<http://www.queensu.ca/learningstrategies/grad/presentation/module.html>