



THREE MINUTE PAPER COMPETITION

APPLICATION GUIDE

2019

A BIT OF BACKGROUND

- The Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) is a skills development activity which challenges graduate students to explain their research project to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes.
- Developed by The University of Queensland (UQ) in 2008, enthusiasm for the 3MT concept and its adoption in numerous universities led to the development of an international competition.
- In 2013, Trent began to host its own 3MT, and in 2015, Trent held its first 3-minute paper competition for undergraduates.

WHAT IS A 3 MINUTE PAPER?

- There's so much to say about my research – can I do it in 3 minutes? *THAT'S THE CHALLENGE!*
- Good 3-minute talks are focused, succinct, insightful, engaging, & clear.
- Explain the purpose of your work, your research question, your (preliminary) findings, the significance of your research.
- *Watch videos from 2018 winners:*
 - Taylor Crawford, Psychology (Trent Durham-GTA): "[Once upon a time, a dentist got sick at a birthday party.](#)"
 - Sabateeshan Mathavarajah, Biochemistry/Molecular Biology (Gzowski): "[Uncovering the mysteries of Batten disease through an amoeba](#)"
 - Laurel Pirrie, Psychology (Champlain): "[A Desire for Consent: Teasing Apart Conflated Dimensions of Sexual Interaction](#)"

WHY IS 3MP VALUABLE TO YOU?

- Skill development in communication & critical thinking.
- Preparation for a 3-minute talk that is complex and informative
 - Demonstrate your ability to distill a message, establish logical order, create coherence, demonstrate significance, and identify rich, meaningful evidence.
- Delivery of a presentation that is engaging and clear
 - Meet the challenge of communicating ideas to an audience who is not familiar with your field of study: identify the audience, consider accessibility to ideas and language, establish meaning and significance.
- Opportunity to build your resume or portfolio, gain valuable experience
- Competition for prizes

ACCORDING TO TRENT'S V.P. RESEARCH & INNOVATION

“No matter what your research is, or what it is you want to pursue in life, one thing you have to learn is how to effectively communicate complex issues. You just spent a semester, a year, or more diving into intricate research. If you can distill it down to plain language in under 3 mins, you have developed a powerful transferable skill for virtually any career of your choosing.”

- **Dr. Neil Emery, VP Research and Innovation**
Keynote Speaker, 3MP 2016

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

- Participants must be currently registered in the 3rd or 4th year of a Trent undergraduate degree program.
- Presentations must be based on original research from the student's undergraduate thesis, major research project/paper, or community research project.
- Research should be conducted during 2018-19 academic year. Note that results do not need to be complete.
- Presenters must agree to be photographed and video-taped and allow photos/videos to be shared publicly.
- Presenters must have support from their course professor or faculty supervisor.
- Presentations are individual. Participants who wish to present on a team project must obtain written permission from all team members in order to be considered for the 3MP competition.
- 18 spaces available

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- You will be required to provide
 - Your first and last names
 - Your Trent email address
 - Year of Study
 - College or campus affiliation (open to students in Ptbo and Durham-GTA)
 - Supervising Faculty or Course Professor name and email
 - Project type and Course code/Discipline
- You will also have to acknowledge and agree to terms about intellectual property, confidentiality, and use of photos/videos.

AN APPEALING TITLE

- Clear and interesting title
 - Avoid highly technical language or jargon
 - Link to how research is interesting or important
 - Some past titles:
 - The ABCs of “None of the Above” Multiple Choice Items
 - Birth Defects Caused by Heavy Metals: The Potential Protein Perpetrator
 - Uncovering the Mysteries of Batten Disease through an Amoeba
 - Bringing Fingerprints to Light: A Comparison
 - Snail Tales: Can Ancestral Stress Shape Shells Of The Future?

A CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH

(200 WORDS)

- Focused and clear description of the research
 - Identify purpose of your research and your research question
 - Briefly explain methods, theoretical framework, or types of evidence, depending on your field of research
 - Describe and explain your findings/results (can be preliminary), argument (can be developing), recommendations (if applicable)

Consider these questions

- What do you want to know?
- Why do you want to know it?
- How did/will you do it?
- What did you find?
- What's the key message?
- How do you know?

AN ENGAGING EXPLANATION OF RESEARCH FOR A BROADER AUDIENCE (3 SENTENCES)

- Explain the significance of your research – within the discipline and beyond.
- Consider your audience and how your research may connect to their existing knowledge, their daily lives, or their interests.
 - Why is your research interesting?
 - Why is your research important ?

AN HONEST AND REFLECTIVE STATEMENT ABOUT YOUR INTEREST IN THE EVENT (3 SENTENCES)

- Tell us why you want to participate
 - Are you really excited about your research?
 - Are others really excited about your research?
 - Do you enjoy presenting to groups?
 - Do you wish to develop your presentation skills?
 - Are you looking for a deadline or a push to complete your project?
 - Are you looking for a new way to think about your research?
 - Do you want to add this experience to your resume or applications to grad school?

APPLICATION REVIEW

- All applications will be reviewed and considered based on clarity of project description, explanation of project significance, and demonstration of student interest. See competition judging criteria for further information.
- We aim to include participants from a range of disciplines, campuses and colleges.
- Applicants may be required to participate in an interview (online/in-person) prior to selection.
- All participants must have support from their faculty supervisor or course instructor.

COMPETITION JUDGING CRITERIA

Language & Communication

- Vocabulary/Word Choice
- Presentation Skills
- PowerPoint slides

Knowledge & Understanding

- *Clear explanation of purpose, question, approach, findings (in progress)*
- *Organized discussion*

Engagement

- Explain significance
- Convey enthusiasm

(Judging criteria adapted from 3MT®, University of Queensland)

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

- Presenters may use no more than three slides. Slides cannot include animations or transitions. No additional props or electronic media are permitted.
- Presenters may use notes or cue cards.
- Presentations are limited to three minutes maximum. Any competitor that exceeds the time limit will be disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. No songs, poems).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts his or her presentation through either movement or speech.
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- The decisions of the 3MP committee and the 3MP competition judges are final.

MORE INFORMATION

Application Deadline: Friday, Feb 1st, 2019 at 4pm

Event Date: Wednesday, March 20th, 2019 at 7pm

www.trentu.ca/3mp

Email us: 3mp@trentu.ca