3 Minute Thesis

Learning Strategies Development

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3MT</th>
<th>lecture, conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>core idea</td>
<td>breadth, depth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>significance</td>
<td>method, results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lay language</td>
<td>scientific jargon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no data</td>
<td>analysis, data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schema in mind</td>
<td>organize in ppt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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