

# Three Minute Thesis Competition

Office of Undergraduate Research

Graduate Studies Office

# Rules for Competitors

- 1 single static powerpoint slide
  - no transitions, animations, or movement
  - slide must be shown from the beginning of your presentation
- No additional electronic media (sound, video) or props (costumes, lab equipment, etc.)
- 3 minutes **max**
  - Begins as soon as presenter starts speaking or moving
- Spoken word only
- Commence from stage
- Judges' decision is final

# What You Will be Judged On

- Communication style
  - Was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialized audience?
- Comprehension
  - Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
- Engagement
  - Did the oration want the audience to know more?

# Tips from Graduate Studies

- Break your talk into 3 sections
  - What your research is about
  - How you did it
  - The significance of your research
- Check out videos of previous winners
  - [Graduate 3MT videos](#)
  - [Undergraduate 3MT videos](#)

# Tips from a Winner

Natalie Jones, 2013 Graduate 3MT winner

- Don't use words that a person in another field won't understand.
- Ask yourself why anyone else would care about your topic – how does your research better the general public's knowledge?
- Figure out why you care about your topic – this will help you to be clear and concise.
- Practice and shoot for 2:45 so if you blank during your presentation you'll have time to recover.
- Dress comfortably but nicely. Consider holding the microphone to have something to do with your hands.

# Registration Information

- Registration due **April 18!**
  - Graduate students
    - You should have been e-mailed a form. If not, contact [spedreira@umassd.edu](mailto:spedreira@umassd.edu)
  - Undergraduate students
    - [Go to the OUR website](#) to download the registration form

# Competition Dates

- Undergraduate preliminary round
  - Tuesday, April 25 2-5 Woodland Commons
- Graduate preliminary round
  - Wednesday, April 26 2-5 Library Grand Reading Room
- Finals (undergrad and grad)
  - Thursday, April 27 2-4 Library Grand Reading Room