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](http://www.ourwebsite.com) 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