2013 Three Minute Thesis (3MT®TM) Competition
January 2013 update

Happy New Year 3MT Colleagues!

In 2013 UWS will host the Trans-Tasman 3MT Competition and we hope you will be joining us at our Parramatta Campus on 18 October. This newsletter is the first of what will be regular communications that we will send out to keep you updated about this year’s competition. Please let us know if there is any particular information that you need to assist your local 3MT Competition organising committee.

This newsletter includes information on:
» Registration
» Participating Universities Information
» Rules and Judging Criteria
» Further Information.

Registration

Participating universities can now register their intention to attend the UWS hosted Trans-Tasman 3MT. Register here.

If you would like us to promote your university's 3MT event, please email 3MT. UWS2013@uws.edu.au as soon as possible with details of your event.

Participating Universities Information

You can access resources for participating universities from www.uws.edu.au/3MT, including The Handbook prepared by The University of Queensland. This handbook has valuable information to assist coordinators prepare for their university’s involvement in this exciting national event.

Rules and Judging Criteria

Judging Criteria
At every level of the competition each competitor will be assessed on the three judging criteria listed below. Please note that each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on the audience.

1. Comprehension:
» Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
» Did the presenter clearly outline the nature and aims of research?
» Do you know what is significant about this research?
» Did the presentation follow a logical sequence?

2. Engagement:
» Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
» Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or dumb down their research?
» Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their work?
» Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience’s attention?
» Would I like to know more about the speaker's research?

3. Communication:
» Was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
» Did the speaker use sufficient eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and a confident stance?
» Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology that needed to be used, and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
» Did the presenter spend the right amount of time on each element of their presentation – or did they elaborate for too long or were rushed?
» Did the PowerPoint slide enhance, rather than detract from, their presentation – was it clear, legible, and concise?

Rules

» Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
» Presentations are to commence from the stage.
» Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
» The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Getting to know UWS

The 3MT competition will be held at the University of Western Sydney’s Parramatta campus alongside the Parramatta River. Parramatta is the demographic centre of Sydney and has the sixth largest CBD in Australia. With an $14 billion dollar economy, Parramatta is a major provider of business and government services and is the geographical, commercial and cultural capital of Western Sydney. Parramatta was founded in the same year as Sydney – 1788 and while most of the University’s buildings are modern, they include some of Australia’s oldest buildings, including an award winning restoration of Australia’s first purpose-built orphanage – The Female Orphan School built by Governor Lachlan Macquarie and his wife Elizabeth as a refuge for young girls of colonial NSW in 1813. One of the later additions to the facilities was a ‘boiler house’ – an industrial laundry and heating facility – complete with coal-fired boilers and a towering brick chimney stack. In 2011, the sandstone and brick building was transformed and now houses student food outlets and a restaurant serving modern Asian and Australian cuisine.

The Boilerhouse Restaurant at UWS Parramatta Campus.

3MT® is an initiative developed by The University of Queensland.