



Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



University of Georgia Three Minute Thesis

Instructions for Remote Preliminary Heats

In light of the precautions being taken to minimize the spread of COVID-19, preliminary heats for Three Minute Thesis will take place virtually.

Making Your Video

- Please make a video of yourself giving your talk. This does not need to be a professional video and can be shot on your phone or using your computer's webcam. You need to be in the frame the whole time. See the [Virtual 3MT Handbook 2020](#) for helpful tips.
- Frame your video so that we see you clearly and close (full length or waist up are both okay, but filming yourself from the other side of the room will be less effective).
- Make sure the area in which you are recording is clear and uncluttered so the judges can focus on you and your presentation. If possible, use a clean, plain wall for your background.
- Choose a quiet place and time to minimize distractions. Turn off noisy electronics and close windows.
- Find a place where you can be well-lit with either natural light from a window or lamps.
- Orient your phone/tablet horizontally and place it on a stable surface (not held by a person).
- Your video must be recorded all in one take, with no editing or splicing in sections from different takes.

Submitting Your Video

- Name your presentation file "3MT_your last name_talk" (ex. 3MT_Bailey_talk).
- Your slide should not be projected while you are doing your talk – instead, you will submit it separately, **as a pdf**, and it will be made available for the judges. This file should be named "3MT_your last name_slide"
- Upload both of your files to the OneDrive folder we will share with you in a separate email. If you don't see the email, check your spam folder. If you have trouble accessing the folder, please let us know.
- Judges will review the videos online, and finalists will be announced via email.

The rules and judging criteria are listed below, but please review the [Graduate School's 3MT Webpage](#) for more details and to view finalist videos from prior years.

Please upload your files to the OneDrive folder by March 1st at 5pm.

Please feel free to contact Gretchen Bailey, g1b22757@uga.edu if you have any additional questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing your talks!

Rules:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- 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 either movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Judging Criteria:*Comprehension and content*

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research question being addressed, while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

Engagement and communication

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

In anticipation of two frequently asked questions:

- Laser pointers fall into the category of props and therefore are not allowed.
- Notecards are permissible, but not encouraged (keep in mind that judges will be evaluating your engagement with the audience. This can be quite tricky to successfully manage if you are looking at your cards too often.)