

## Frequently Asked Questions

If you are interested in participating in the 3MT competition, below are some FAQs that will help you get started.

### ***What is 3MT?***

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is a skills development activity that challenges doctoral students to explain their research project to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes.

### ***Who is eligible to participate?***

Currently enrolled JHMI (School of Medicine, School of Nursing and School of Public Health) doctoral students are eligible to compete. The student must be admitted to Ph.D. candidacy and actively engaged in research.

### ***How long is each 3MT presentation?***

Presentations are limited to three minutes maximum. Competitors exceeding three minutes will be disqualified.

### ***What is allowed on the presenter's 3MT PowerPoint slide?***

One single, static PowerPoint slide is permitted. In preparing the slide, remember that 'less is more'. It does not have to include text. Visual cues are very effective in assisting the presenter's explanation of their research (however, no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any kind can be used).

### ***Can sound or video be used during a presentation?***

No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) is permitted during a 3MT presentation.

### ***Can additional props be used during a presentation?***

No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted during a 3MT presentation. A *laser pointer* is not considered a prop and can be used, but the emphasis is on the oral presentation.

### ***Can palm cards or speech notes be referred to during a presentation?***

Yes, palm cards and/or speech notes are acceptable, however this option may detract from the delivery of the 3MT and is not recommended.

### ***While presenters can't deliver their 3MT as a poem or song, can they quote from a poem or song?***

Yes, quotes can be included from a poem or song if it is relevant to the presenter's thesis topic. Poetry and song lyrics are not permitted to be used to present the entire 3MT and their use should be very limited.

### ***Is there a dress code?***

There is no specific dress code. No costumes are permitted – including hats, masks, etc.

### ***How are presentations judged?***

Presentations will be judged based on the following criteria: *Engagement and Communication*; and *Comprehension and Content*. See the full list of rules and judging criteria [here](#).

### ***Can I win more than one category?***

Yes, it is possible to win first, second or third place and also win the People's Choice Award.

**For additional questions, please contact Lisa Borello at 410.502.0909 or [lborell1@jhmi.edu](mailto:lborell1@jhmi.edu).**