

## **The Hamilton College Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition**

### **What is Three Minute Thesis (3MT®)?**

Three Minute Thesis is a speaking competition specifically focused on developing students' ability to concisely communicate their own research to a general (non-specialist) audience. Each competitor will have a maximum of three minutes to explain his or her senior thesis or senior research project and its significance.

Developed by the University of Queensland, Australia, Three Minute Thesis competitions are now held in over 200 universities across more than 18 countries, including nearly 40 universities in the US.

Although 3MT was originally designed as a graduate student competition, we have been given permission to conduct a 3MT competition here, making Hamilton, to the best of our knowledge, the only strictly undergraduate college to become involved in this internationally recognized competition.

### **Who is eligible for Hamilton's 3MT competition?**

All Hamilton College seniors who will have completed a thesis or senior research project during the current academic year are eligible to compete in 3MT.

### **What are the rules?**

- Each competitor will give an oral presentation of no more than three minutes in length.
- The presentation should explain the research and why it is significant.
- The speaker's approach and language should be appropriate to a non-specialist audience while not trivializing or dumbing-down the research.
- Speakers may use only one static (no animations) PowerPoint slide, which will be displayed from the beginning of the presentation to the end.
- No other props, visuals, or media are permitted.
- Presentations may not be in the form of raps, poems, songs, dances, or other kinds of performances.

### **What are the prizes?**

The first prize winner will receive \$750. First and second runners-up will receive prizes of \$500 and \$250, respectively.

### **When is the competition?**

All competitors will deliver their presentations on Saturday morning, May 2, 2015. The time frame is 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Depending on the number of students who participate, there may be two rounds, a preliminary starting at 9 and a final starting at 11. When registration for the contest closes on April 20, the final plan for May 2 will be announced.

### **Where will the competition be held?**

The event will be held in Kennedy Auditorium (G027) in the Taylor Science Center.

### **Do I need to register in advance?**

All participants must register for the competition by April 20, 2015. Register at <https://my.hamilton.edu/survey-manager/survey?id=2235>

### **Who will be judging the competition?**

The judges will be local business leaders and other professionals.

### **What are the judging criteria?**

#### ***Comprehension & Content***

- Did the presenter provide an understanding of the background and significance of the research?
- Did the presenter clearly describe the key results of the research and the conclusions drawn from it?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Were the thesis topic, key results, research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker adequately explain key terms and provide sufficient background or context where needed?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of the presentation? Did he or she avoid excessive elaboration of any one aspect and avoid rushing the presentation?

#### ***Engagement & Communication***

- Did the presentation make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or over-generalize the research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for the research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain the audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have appropriate stage presence and convey confidence through posture and stance? Did he or she make sufficient eye contact and use effective physical expression?
- Did the presenter speak at an appropriate rate and level of volume? Did the speaker use his or her voice effectively for emphasis and meaning (appropriate variation in force, speed, and vocal range)?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation? Was it clear, legible, and concise?

### **What additional information and resources will be available?**

Information and coaching sessions will be offered at the Oral Communication Center (KJ 222) as follows:

- **Information sessions:** Monday 4/13/15 at 4:10 pm, Tuesday 4/14/15 at noon and 4:10 pm, Wednesday 4/15/15 at noon.
- **Coaching sessions:** Monday 4/27/15 at 4:10 pm and 7:00 pm, Tuesday 4/28 at 4:10 and 7:00 pm.

Students participating in 3MT are encouraged to schedule conferences with Oral Communication Center peer tutors to practice their talks and get advice. You can make a conference appointment by going to the OCC website: <https://my.hamilton.edu/oralcommunication/calendar>

For more information about 3MT, including videos of student presentations, visit the 3MT website <http://threeminutethesis.org/>

Direct questions to James Helmer, Oral Communication Center Director, at [jhelmer@hamilton.edu](mailto:jhelmer@hamilton.edu).