What is the Three Minute Thesis® Competition?

The first 3MT® was held at The University of Queensland in 2008 with 160 PhD students competing. Enthusiasm for the 3MT® concept grew, and its widespread implementation by universities has led to the development of an international competition.

At Amherst College, thesis students nominated by their departments compete to present the significance of their research to the world in less than three minutes. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winner ($1500), the runner-up ($1000), and the People's Choice ($500). Today's competition is the first 3MT® at Amherst College.
Host

Susan Daniels, Associate in Public Speaking

Judges

Andrew Grant-Thomas
Co-Founder of Embrace Race, a multiracial community of parents, teachers, experts, and other caring adults who support each other to meet the challenges that race poses to our children, families, and communities.

Deepika Marya
Professor Marya has taught in the Honors College at UMass Amherst since 2016, and before that she was Associate Professor of English at the University of Southern Maine.

Peter Sokolowki
Editor at Large at Merriam-Webster, he has written definitions for many of Merriam-Webster’s dictionaries, is active as a blogger, podcaster, and speaker on language, and has served as pronouncer for spelling bees worldwide. He was named among TIME’s 140 Best Twitter Feeds of 2013.

People’s Choice Award

Using the ballot at right, please select your favorite presenter.

Judging Criteria

Comprehension & Content: Did the presentation help the audience understand the research? Was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience?

Engagement & Communication: Did the oration make the audience want to know more? Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?

Choose only one speaker for the People’s Choice Award. Ballots with multiple names checked will be discarded. Ballots will be collected at the end of the entire program. Audience members who leave early will not be allowed to submit a ballot, and only one ballot will be collected from each audience member.

3MT® Speakers

Young-Ji Cho, Art and the History of Art
“Where are My Heroes?”

Phuong-Nghi Pham, Psychology
“A Snapshot of our Visual World”

Abbas Shah, Anthropology
“Explaining Dictatorships in Pakistan”

Sarah Nessen, Biology
“Go With Your Gut: Controlling Bacterial Signals”

Joon Kim, History
“Chasing Soju”

Josh Harmon, French
“Sending Signals”

Christine Kim, Interdisciplinary
“Are We Training our Doctors Well?”

Emily Ratte, Sociology
“Asian or White? Biraciality in a Binary Society”

Siena Koh, Interdisciplinary
“Seeing Through the Smoke: Fires and Myths in California Wine Country”

Andrew Kim, History
“We, too, are America: Building Solidarity through Ethnic Activism”

Sarah Teichman, Statistics
“From Facebook Friends to Protein Clusters: Detecting Communities in Networks”

Jacob Pagano, English
“Yes, or the Poetics of Affirmation”