Frequently Asked Questions

The University of Queensland developed the following FAQs to assist students wishing to participate in 3MT™. IPFW has adapted the FAQ for our competition.

Can I present my oration via Skype?

While this decision rests with each School/Faculty/University, we would discourage remote presentations. As an important aspect of the competition is audience engagement, anyone who would choose to present via conferencing facilities would be at a disadvantage compared to other competitors.

Can I present my oration as a poem, rap or song?

No. While we appreciate everyone has a different presentation style, the purpose of the activity is to "engage the audience without reducing research to entertainment value alone”. 3MT™ is primarily about developing a student’s oration skills. It is important that the competition is not seen as trivializing research or science.

Can I use a laser pointer?

Yes. A laser pointer is not considered a prop. However, the emphasis is on the oration.

Does my slide have to be in PowerPoint?

No, however it is our preferred format as all slides will be collated into a single PowerPoint presentation form competition.

How many transitions or animations can I have in my slide?

None. The slide must be static and not change in any way during the presentation. Your slide must be displayed for the duration of your presentation.

Do I have to use a slide?

No. The slide is optional as the emphasis is on the oration.

What happens if my presentation is longer than 3 minutes?

In the IPFW 3MT™ Final, a 20 second warning will be provided to competitors (a colored board held up by timekeeper) and a bell will sound at the three minute limit. If a presenter continues to speak after the bell they will be automatically disqualified.

Is there a dress code?

Yes, please dress in business casual as there will be professionals from the region in attendance. Please note that no costumes are allowed (including hats, masks, Dame Edna specs, etc).
Will I be able to see a countdown-timer at my final?
No, color cards will be used to show 1 minute, 30 seconds, and 15 seconds.

Can I win more than one category?
Yes, it is possible to win a place (First, Runner-Up, etc) and win the People’s Choice award.

Do I need to attend the entire competition?
Yes, supporting fellow students is important.

Further information
3MT™ presentations will be recorded and published to YouTube. The YouTube video publication date will be approved by the supervising professor.

If you have any queries about 3MT™ please contact your 3MT™ Event Coordinator, Dr. Carol Sternberger or the Graduate Office by email graduate@ipfw.edu or phone 260-481-6145