THREE MINUTE THESIS (3MT®) PREP WORKSHOP

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Why is this a thing?

- PhD students develop skills
  - Communication
  - Presentation
  - Preparation
- Importance of tailoring a presentation to the audience
  - Investor pitch
  - Grant application
  - R&D funding
- Challenge!

THREE MINUTE THESIS

FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The Words

- Tell a story!
  - Why are you studying this? Is there a personal reason? Is there a global reason?
  - What is the problem and what is your idea?
  - Did your solution work? Why or why not?
  - What did you learn?
  - Why should the audience care?
- Do: Basic/general language, take time to explain, dynamic voice, passion
- Don't: Acronyms, field specific terms, monotone, assume audience knowledge

The Slide

- One static slide presented behind you during your presentation
- MS PowerPoint 16:9 format
- Should add to your message NOT distract the audience
- Limit words that the audience will have to read
- Do: Impact of your work, personal anecdotes, visual metaphor
- Don't: Include all of the above, data/results, ignore look/design

- Tip: Let the slide be your "cheat sheet" to get you back on track if you blank when on stage.

The Preparation

▶ Practice, practice, practice!

▶ Practice with a mic in your hand and the slide behind you

▶ Record yourself and watch it back

▶ Try not to stare at a timer when practicing

▶ Give your talk to friends, family, and especially people outside your field

▶ Two methods of preparation

    ▶ Draft a script and memorize it word for word

    ▶ Draft bullets or topics you want to cover and ad lib the rest

The Day Of

- Timer starts when you begin speaking. No visual timers or countdown.

- Notification when 30 seconds left. You will be cut off!

- No reading from cards

- You will have a mic in your hand

- Use the stage! Don't walk too much but use the space to help you be dynamic and entertaining

- What to do if you freeze?
  - Take a breath
  - Start over from the beginning
  - Glance at your slide

Questions?