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Briefing Session for HKU Three Minute Thesis (3MT[®]) Competition 2017

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Agenda

- 1) The 3MT Concept
- 2) Eligibility Criteria for HKU 3MT
- 3) Presentation Rules
- 4) Judging Criteria
- 5) The Adjudicating Panel
- 6) Prizes
- 7) Other 3MT Competitions
- 8) Tips for Participants
- 9) Sharing by the Champion of HKU 3MT 2015
- 10) Q & A



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The 3MT Concept – What is it?

- An academic competition to challenge PhD & MPhil students to explain their theses within 3 minutes to a general audience



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The 3MT Concept – Background

- Developed by the University of Queensland (UQ) in 2008.
- The Graduate School and the Knowledge Exchange Office (KEO) launched the HKU 3MT in 2011. The HKU 3MT is now run annually.



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The 3MT Concept – Emphasis

- Consolidate your ideas and share your research discoveries in **layman's language** to engage a non-specialist audience.



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The 3MT Concept – Why is this skill important?

- If you can't communicate what you are doing, how can you explain its significance and what it is worth?
- especially when you apply for research funding, attend a job interview, or try to find a donor to support your research ...



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Eligibility Criteria for HKU 3MT

- **MPhil or PhD** students +
- candidature confirmed +
- in **final year of study** (i.e. within one year prior to the end of candidature or already submitted the “Notice of Intent to Submit a Thesis”)



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Eligibility Criteria for HKU 3MT (Cont'd)

- **MPhil or PhD** students who have **submitted their theses?**
 - ✓ if **not** yet received the confirmation letter from the Graduate School that they have already completed all the requirements for the conferment of the degree sought.
- Students are permitted to enter the competition **only once** during their candidature.



Presentation Rules

- **A single static PowerPoint slide** (no slide transitions, animations or ‘movements’ of any description; the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration)
- **No additional electronic media** (e.g. sound and video files)
- **No additional props** (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment)
- **3 minutes maximum** (competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified)



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Presentation Rules (Cont'd)

- Presentation in **spoken word** (no raps or songs)
- Presentation to **commence from the stage**
- Presentation considered to have commenced when a presenter starts the presentation **through either movement or speech**
- Presentation in **English**
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Full list of the Presentation Rules on the [HKU 3MT website](#)



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IMPORTANT: Consult Your Supervisors

- Due to the nature of the competition, any data or information presented or discussed in the Competition should be considered information that will likely **enter the public domain** (e.g. YouTube).
- You should discuss with your **research supervisors** before registering for the Competition.



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Judging Criteria

- **Comprehension & Content**
- **Engagement & Communication**

Full list of Judging Criteria on the [HKU 3MT website](#)



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The Adjudicating Panel

- Comprising members from **both** non-technology-related and technology-based disciplines
- Both internal and external members



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Prizes

- Champion:
HK\$10,000 research travel support or book prize
- First Runner-up:
HK\$6,500 research travel support or book prize
- Second Runner-up:
HK\$3,500 research travel support or book prize



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Prizes (Cont'd)

- People's Choice Award (by audience ballot):
HK\$3,500 research travel support or book prize
- Online People's Choice Award (by being voted with most 'LIKE's' on YouTube):
US\$130 book voucher



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Other 3MT Competitions

HKU's Participation in a Regional/International Competition?

- Neither the champion nor any other winners of the HKU 3MT Competition will be automatically eligible to represent the University in any regional/international 3MT competitions
- HKU may participate in a virtual competition rather than one held overseas



Other 3MT Competitions (Cont'd)

- Candidate to represent HKU must meet the eligibility criteria set by the hosting institution or organizer concerned
- **Example:** If the hosting institution or organizer concerned only allows PhD candidates to participate in its competition, the highest ranking PhD candidate among the HKU 3MT candidates may be given the chance to represent the University in that competition.



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Tips for Participants – Getting Started

- Talk to your supervisors and research team!
- Think why your research is relevant and of interest to anyone who knows nothing about your field.
- Watch the [videos](#) of past winners of HKU, UQ and Trans-Tasman.



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Tips for Participants – Your Slide

- Less is more
- Consider using more images and less text
- Remember the rule: **No** transition or animation



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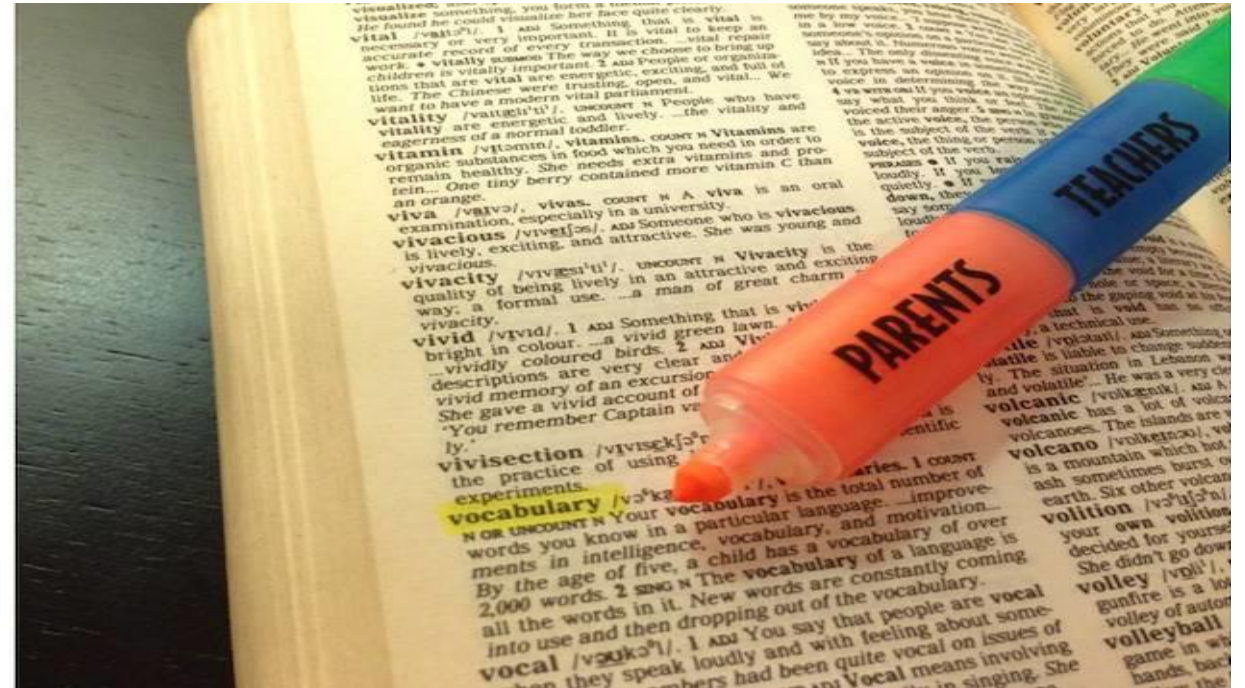


Tips for Participants – Your Slide

Example:

Dr Carrie Lau
2014 Champion of HKU 3MT

“Home and school influences on the English vocabulary development of Chinese preschoolers in Hong Kong”





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Tips for Participants – Research Content

- **But** you must explain your research, the complex ideas and your research findings
- **Don't** just describe the initial research question!



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Tips for Participants – Training Videos

- By Simon Clews who has judged at the international 3MTs and conducted training to many 3MT candidates in different countries
- Offer tips, tricks and techniques covering topics from effective communications skills to producing a good slide ([link](#))



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Tips for Participants – Important Dates

2-step Registration Process:

- 1) 6pm, Jan 16, 2017 (Mon), via [HKU Event Management System](#);
- 2) **ON OR BEFORE Jan 18, 2017 (Wed)**, submission of the **completed** supervisor endorsement form to the Graduate School ([Download Form](#))

NO late applications will be accepted!



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Tips for Participants – Important Dates

- **Date of Competition: March 6, 2017 (Mon)**
- Heats in the morning and the final competition in the afternoon



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Further information

FAQ: <http://www.ke.hku.hk/hku3mt/index.php/resources/faqs>

Website: <http://www.ke.hku.hk/hku3mt/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hkukeo>

Enquiries: Tel: 2299 0178 / E-mail: keoffice@hku.hk

Join NOW and have fun!



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