



What to Expect and How to be Successful



WHY PARTICIPATE IN 3MT?

Showcase your work

Develop communication/
presentation skills

Compete for awards

Learn about research in other
disciplines

Grow your network

2026-2027 COMPETITION DIVISIONS

On-campus division

Fall 2026 and Spring 2027

- Must participate in-person on the Manhattan campus in the first round, October 28, 2026
- Must be enrolled in Spring 2027 to advance to final competition in January, and to be considered for regional competition

On-line division

Fall 2026

- Must be enrolled in grad program designated as “online” or based at the Olathe or Salina campuses
- Judging conducted asynchronously (submit video recorded presentation) end of October 28, 2026
- No advancement to on-campus final competition

EVENT DETAILS

Oct 6 – registration deadline

Sept 23 – Pitch and Pizza prep session

Oct 12-21 – practice sessions

Oct 26 – slide deadline (on-campus)

Oct 27 – video submission deadline
(online)

Oct 28 – first round of on-campus
competition, 9am–5pm, Union

Jan 27 – final competition, 5pm, Union
Awards: 1st place and 2nd place (by judge
scores), People's Choice (by audience vote)

March 26 – MAGS competition

ONLINE DIVISION DETAILS

Requirements and rules are the same as the on-campus competition.

Asynchronous judging

The presentation format is the same as the on-campus competition.

The difference is that you will video record yourself giving your presentation and submit the video. Judges will have a designated time to evaluate presentations.

Showcasing online division presentations

Online division video presentations will be shown at the on-campus competition on Oct. 28.

The first place online presentation will be featured at the final on-campus competition on January 27, 2027.

EVENT LOGISTICS

Present KSU grad research

- Thesis or dissertation not required, but must present original research conducted as part of your grad program
- Research does not have to be complete, but you will be more competitive the further along you are because you will have a more complete research story

Three minutes to present

Single, static slide

No props, poems, notes, etc.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Comprehension and Content

Can the audience walk away with a good understanding of your research?

- Presentation provided clear motivation, background, and significance to the research question.
- Presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research.
- Presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes and impact of the research.

Engagement and Communication

Was the presentation engaging and did the audience enjoy listening to you?

- The oration was delivered clearly, and the language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience.
- The PowerPoint slide was well-defined and enhanced the presentation.
- The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience's attention.

NOT YOUR TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PRESENTATION

Presenting to non-experts

Less focus on method details and analysis

More focus on why we should care

Celebration of your work!

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Tailoring language

Identify technical language and avoid it

Practice with audience in advance

Share your work with family, friends

What terms/concepts were once unfamiliar to you?

But don't oversimplify--convey the complexity of your work

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Capture their
interest

Use an engaging title

Open with something intriguing or
relatable

Tell a story--beginning, middle, end

Avoid tiny details, focus on the big
picture

Why should we care?

Show your excitement!

PRESENTATION TITLE

An opportunity for
creativity!

Your first opportunity to engage
audience

Avoid technical terms, use common
language

Ask people not familiar with your
research if they would want to hear your
talk based on the title

Would a high school student know all
the words in your title?

PREPARE YOUR TALK

Put it in writing

Start with an outline of key points for beginning, middle, and end

Tell the story of your research from a high level

Then expand to a narrative

Record/Read out loud to yourself

CRAFTING YOUR SLIDE

Develop the slide after you have a good draft of your talk

Enhances/supports your talk

Less is more

Talk should make sense without the slide

Does not have to include your name or title; we will have an intro slide for you

TIME MANAGEMENT

Preparing for the 3MT

It's only 3 minutes, but preparation takes some time

Start early, and work on your presentation a little every day

TIME MANAGEMENT

In the competition

Don't introduce yourself – a moderator will introduce you

Avoid "thank you" or other closing comments

Define technical terms but only use the definition, or provide definition first

Be careful with questions and humor

USE RESOURCES

View winning presentations

KSU Writing Center

Resources on 3MT webpage

One Button Plus Studio (Sunderland
Foundation Innovation Lab)

- record yourself to review and plan your physical presentation

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

Enjoy this experience!