Do you dread talks crammed with jargon and fine-print detail? Don't let yours be one of them.

Authentic, Engaging, Clear: Your Thesis In 3 Short Minutes

John Bandler, Michelle Ogrodnik, and Erica Dao

Thursday, February 13, 2020
5:00 – 7:00 pm, Room ABB 102
Arthur Bourns Building
1280 Main Street West, Hamilton
All welcome. Admission is free.

It's challenging to present highly complex, technical material in three minutes, to kindle surprise and curiosity in your audience, to make them want to hear more. But developing the necessary skills has become popular worldwide, skills that become lifetime assets for advancing your career.

Perhaps you fear being too brief—like ending with time to spare—so your audience might think you have little to say. Perhaps you fear being too clear, so that your setbacks and possible holes in logic are too obvious. Or perhaps being too engaging might come across as phony or reveal that you're not a serious scholar.

Fear not. Welcome to the increasingly popular Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition, where, supported by just one static slide, you deliver your presentation to a panel of non-specialist judges who rank you based on how engaging, accessible, and compelling you made your presentation, and where straying over three minutes disqualifies you.

This workshop interactively addresses issues surrounding live presentations, suggesting do's and don'ts, with specific attention to 3MT®. We discuss story-telling, trust, first impressions, citation, subtext, authenticity, articulation, stage presence, slide design, respecting your audience, admitting setbacks, and more. We analyze 3MT® case studies from diverse disciplines, including a Q&A session that includes former 3MT® finalists. We aim to engage in a free discussion about effective presentations and to arm you with tools and strategies to deliver your best 3MT®!

John Bandler, McMaster professor emeritus, is an award-winning engineer, entrepreneur, innovator, researcher, artist, speaker, and author of fiction, including stage plays. See YouTube for examples. He has published over 500 papers and pioneered space mapping. In 1997, Hewlett-Packard acquired his company Optimization Systems Associates Inc. A Fellow of several societies, he has been honored by a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, appointed Officer of the Order of Canada, and Professional Engineers Ontario honored him with their Gold Medal. He mentors individuals for presentations, and has co-initiated and co-organized 3MT® competitions, including the continuing 3MT® competition at the IEEE International Microwave Symposium.

Michelle Ogrodnik is a PhD student in the Department of Kinesiology and a Student Educational Developer at the MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching. She is interested in developing instructional strategies to improve learning for students. She has experience presenting her research to a wide range of audiences, from elementary school students to the Governor General. Michelle won the Participant's Choice Award in the 2017 McMaster University 3MT® competition, was one of two winners in the 2017 1-Minute Research Blitz Competition at McMaster and, most recently, was selected as a national winner in the 2018 SSHRC Storytellers Competition.

Erica Dao is a PhD student in the Department of Physics & Astronomy studying Medical Physics. Her research interests include applications of X-ray physics and optics in cancer detection/classification as well as radiation protection for human space flight. Erica is a tour guide for the McMaster Nuclear Reactor, where she gets to share her enthusiasm for radiation science with guests ranging from elementary school students to industry professionals. In 2019, Erica placed second in the McMaster University 3MT® competition.