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 Daniel Tajik

Thursday, February 14, 2019
5:00 – 7:00 pm, Room ITB 137
Information Technology 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 and appointed Officer of the Order of Canada. In 2018 Professional Engineers Ontario honored him with their Gold Medal. He mentors individuals for presentations, and has co-initiated various 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.

Daniel Tajik is a PhD student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering developing microwave image processing algorithms for use in medical diagnostics. His interests include breast cancer imaging, stroke detection, concealed weapon detection, and antenna design for satellite communications. In 2017, he won both the First Place and Audience Choice Awards in the first ever 3MT® competition at the IEEE International Microwave Symposium. In 2018, Daniel won first place for the same presentation in the first ever Electrical and Computer Engineering graduate 3MT® competition at McMaster University.