

“If I am to speak ten minutes, I need a week for preparation; if an hour, I am ready now.”
—Various historical figures

Clear, Brief, Engaging: Your Thesis In Three Minutes



John Bandler,
Michelle Ogrodnik,
and Daniel Tajik

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
7:00 – 9:00 pm, Room ITB 137
Information Technology Building
1280 Main Street West, Hamilton
All welcome. Admission is free.

Do you dread endless talks crammed with detail and jargon, delivered in a monotone, or by speakers who stumble over or swallow words—in short, by oblivious speakers? Or are you a perpetrator?

On the other hand, do you fear being too brief—like ending with time to spare—so your audience might think you have little to say? Or being too clear, so that your setbacks and holes in logic are too obvious? Or being too engaging, and hence cementing the impression that you’re not a serious scholar?

Fear not. Dread not. Welcome to the 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 going over time disqualifies you.

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.

This workshop interactively addresses the myriad issues surrounding live presentations, 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 give you the 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 honoured by a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and appointed Officer of the Order of Canada. He mentors individuals for presentations, and has co-initiated the 3MT® competitions at the [IEEE International Microwave Symposium](#).



Michelle Ogrodnik is a Master’s student in the Department of Kinesiology. Her presentation “[Sweat so you don’t forget: Using exercise breaks to enhance learning and memory](#),” was selected as the Participant’s Choice Award in the 2017 McMaster University 3MT® competition. She was one of two winners in the 2017 1-Minute Research Blitz Competition (Bodies of Knowledge) at McMaster. Most recently, she was nominated for two teaching assistant awards and works as a student partner at the MacPherson Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Daniel Tajik is a Ph.D. student in Electrical and Computer Engineering, focused on developing microwave image processing algorithms for use in medical diagnostics. His interests include applications of microwave engineering in breast cancer imaging, stroke detection, concealed weapon detection, and through-the-wall imaging, as well as 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 for his presentation

“[Microwave holography: The future of medical imaging](#).”

