



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Birmingham Three Minute Thesis competition

Your doctoral thesis could win you generous prizes
as the world-renowned contest returns to Birmingham





THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA



The What and Why of 3MT

- Effectively explain your research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience
- Develop skills in:
 - Presenting and communicating
 - Public engagement
- Raise the profile of your work
- Renew your enthusiasm



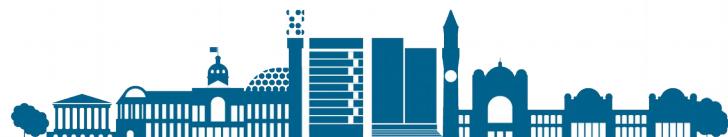
As with all communication...

- ...how can we best use this **medium** to transmit our **message** to this **audience**?

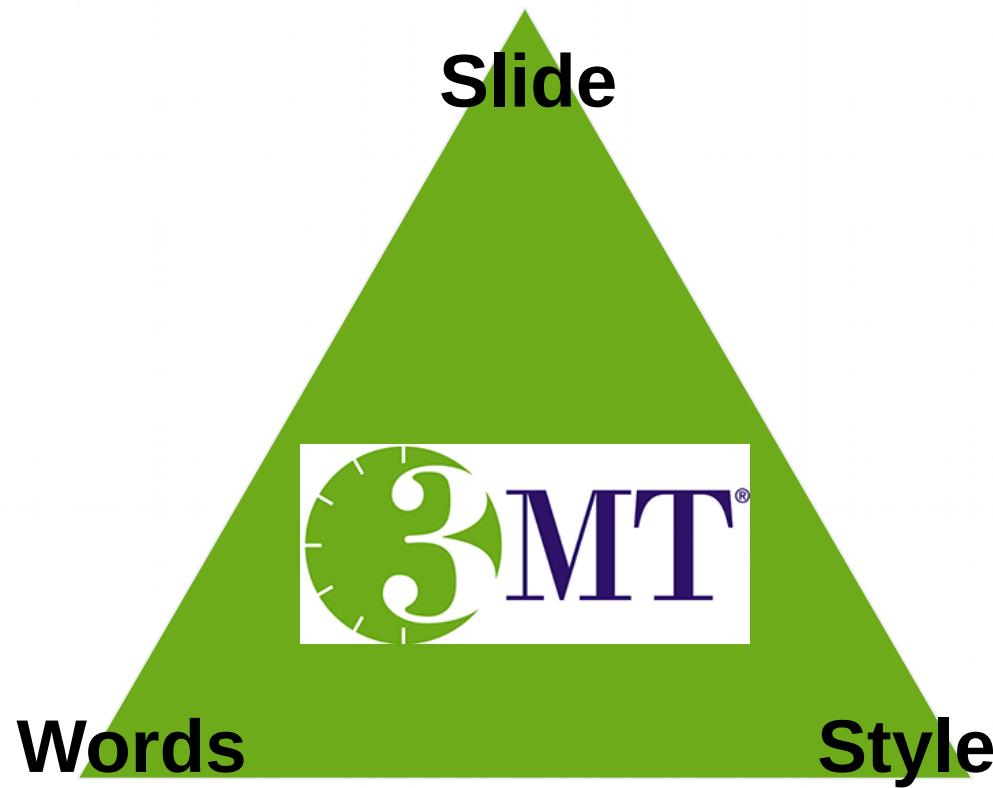


What makes a good 3MT?

- Simple, easy to follow, few details
- Interesting
- Engaging style, enthusiasm
- Raising awareness of other studies
- Clear take home message



Your 3 minute thesis





Hayley Keen – 3MT

□ Slide

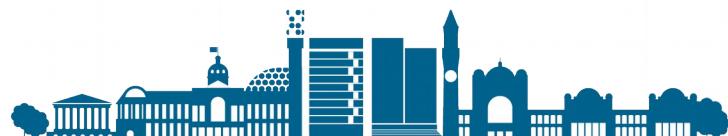
- Clear slide
- Good examples
- Graph a mess – no idea what it was about, didn't understand
- Wasted space?
- Picture of trees divisive!

□ Words

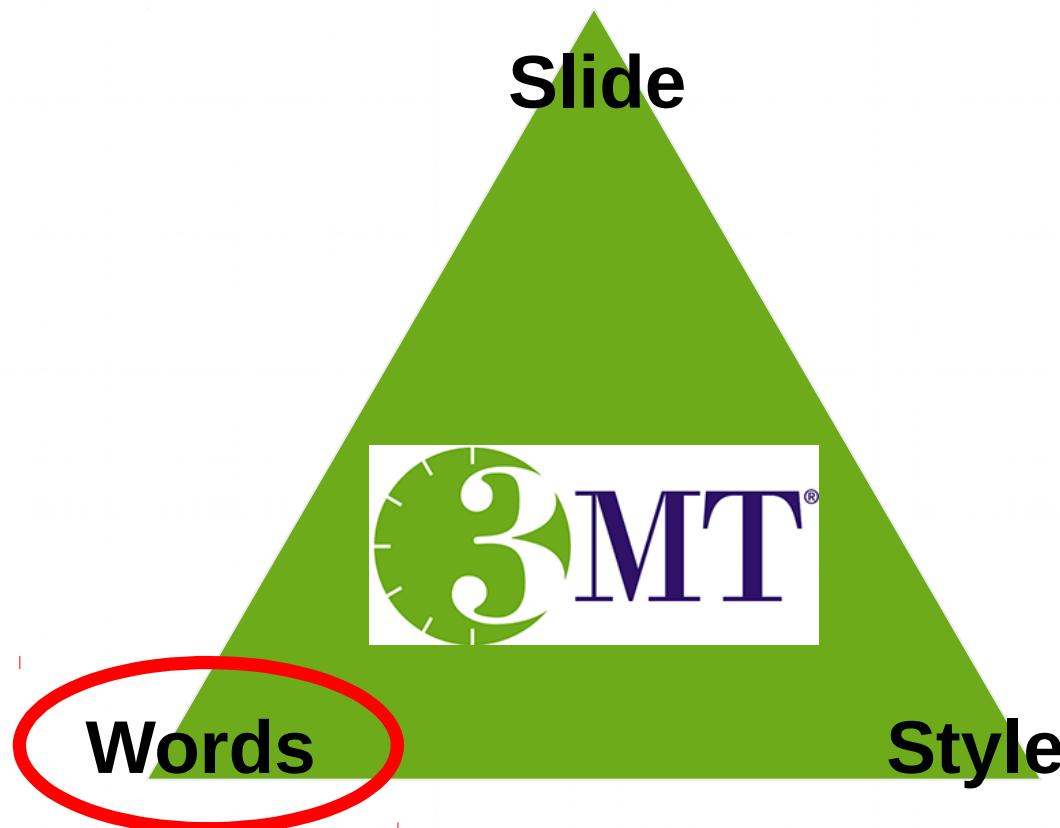
- Understood what she's doing, how she's doing it, what her key results are
- Unexplained jargon? Taxa?
- Lack of proof for main point?

□ Style

- Speaking fluently
- Appears memorised
- Terrified!
- Appears not to care about project

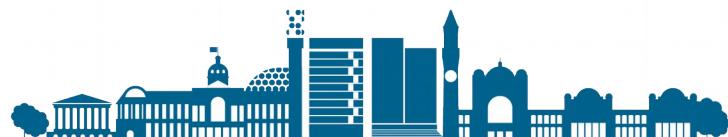


Your 3 minute thesis

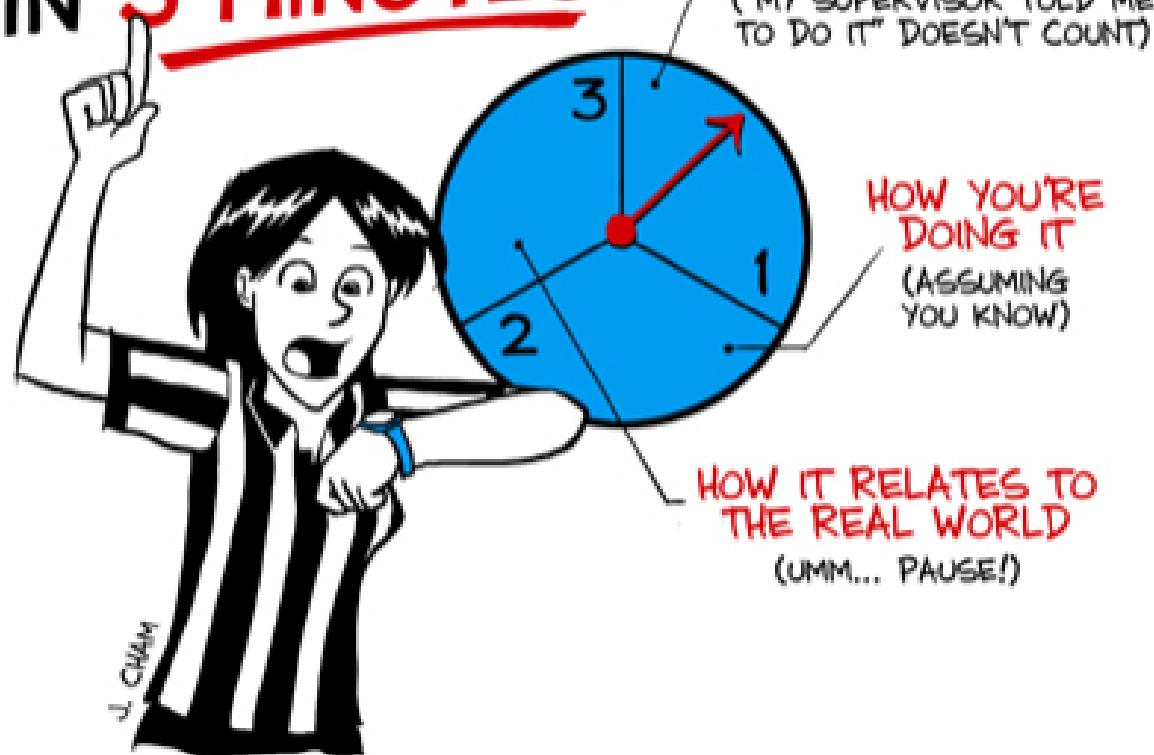


Your words – the rules

- You should present in a style suitable for an intelligent but non-expert audience
- ALL presentations should be NO LONGER than three minutes; competitors exceeding three minutes will be disqualified



YOUR THESIS IN 3 MINUTES:



Your words – some guidelines

- WHAT – HOW – WHY
- Tell a story
 - Human interest?
 - Relate to the real world
 - Be clear about what you're doing
- Non-specialist audience – but intelligent!
- Start by assuming 100 words per min

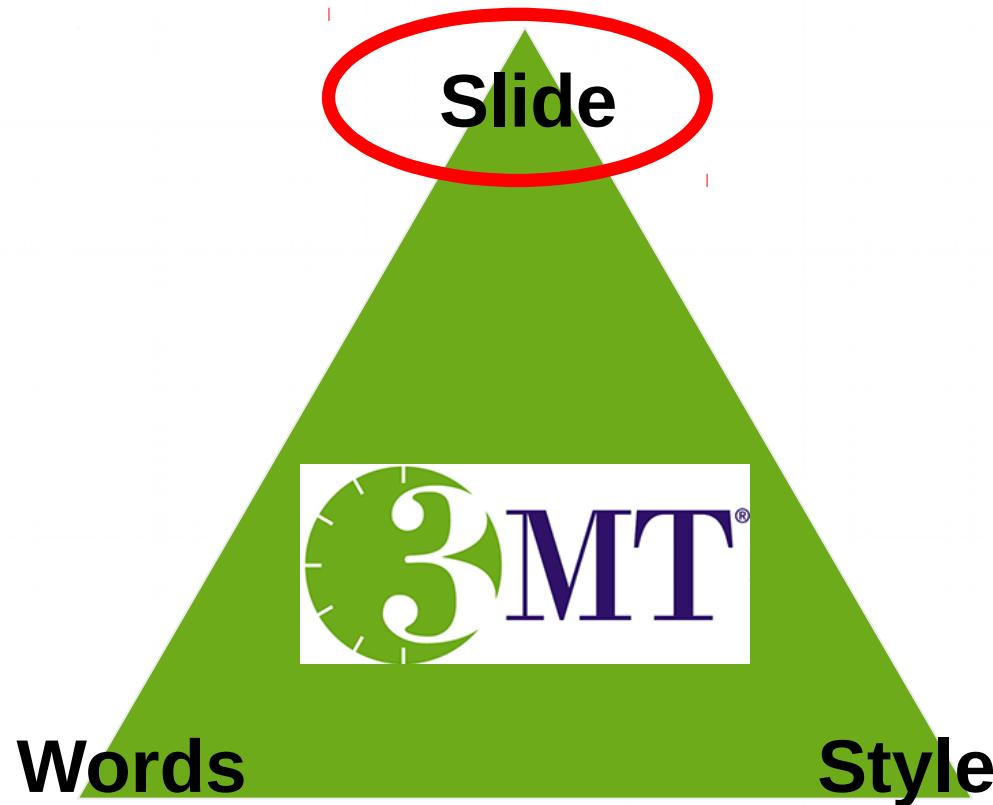


Your turn...

- Review (or write) your 3MT script
- Read it out to your colleague
- Give constructive criticism
 - Is there unexplained jargon?
 - Is there a thread/story?
 - Is it clear what the PhD involves?

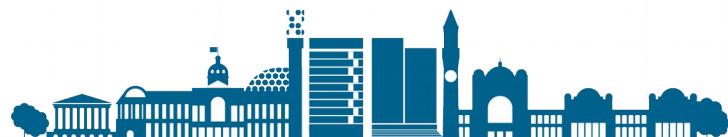


Your 3 minute thesis



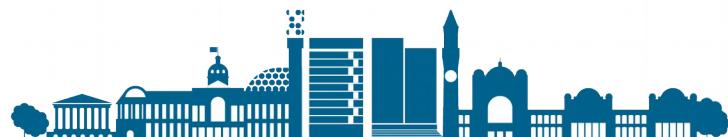
Your slide – the rules

- You will be allowed one single and static PowerPoint slide to support your presentation (slide transitions or animations are NOT allowed)
- No additional electronic media (such as sound or video) are allowed

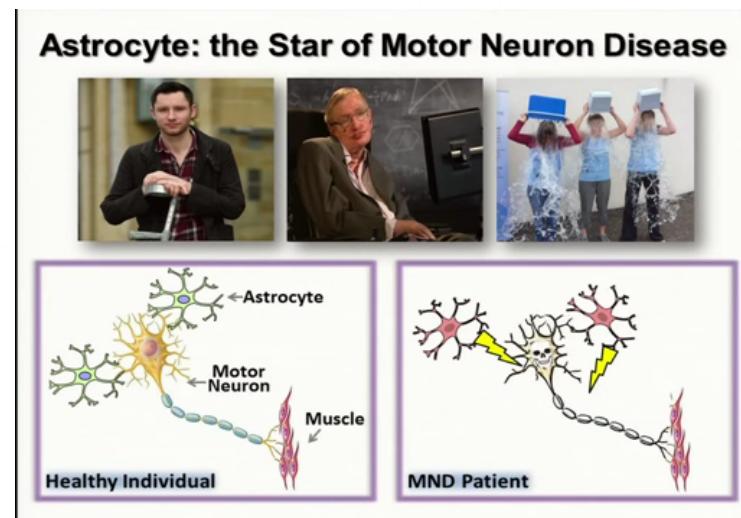
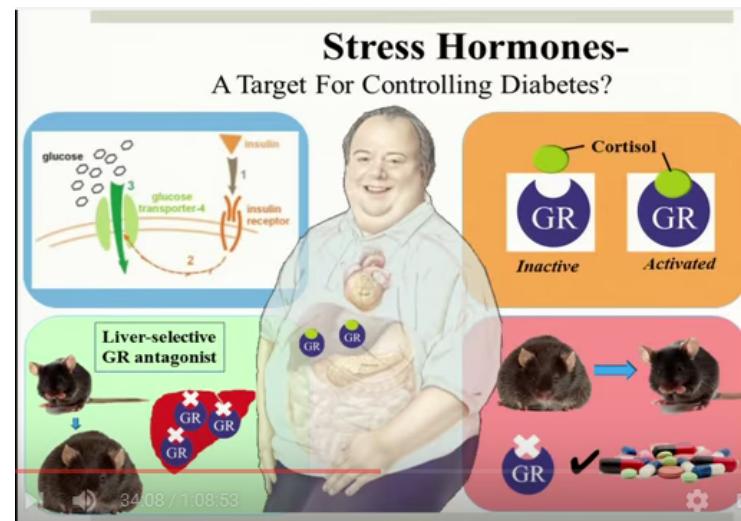
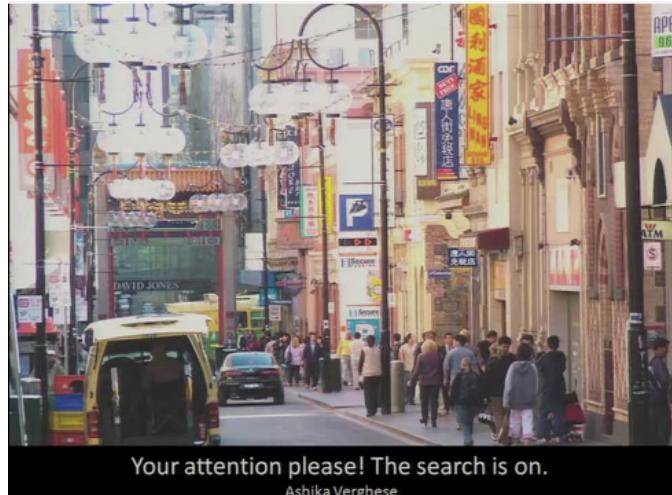
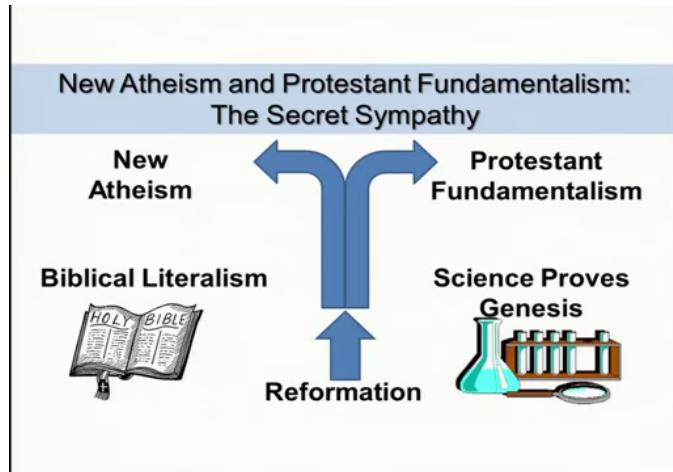


Your slide - the judging criteria

- Enhances the presentation
- Clear
- Legible
- Concise

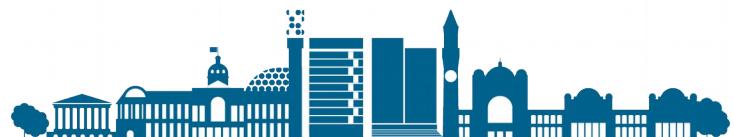


Examples...

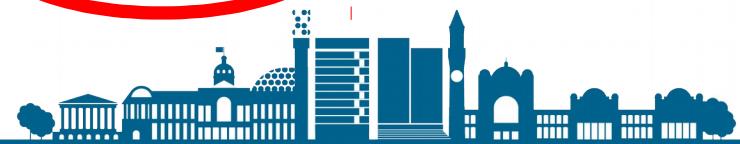


Your turn...

- Review (or sketch) your slide
- Explain how each element enhances your presentation to your colleague
- Give constructive feedback
 - Too busy? Not enough info?
 - Is it clear?

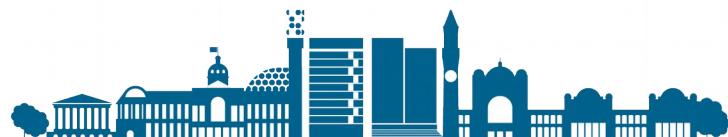


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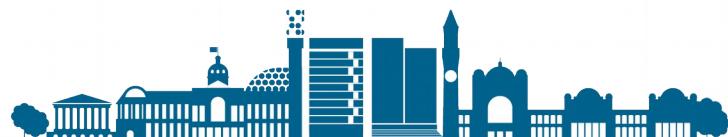
Your style – the rules

- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted
- No notes are permitted
- Presentations are to be spoken word (no poems or songs)



Your style – the judging criteria

- Conveys enthusiasm for their research
- Captures and maintains the audience's attention
- Sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range
- Maintains a steady pace
- Has a confident stance

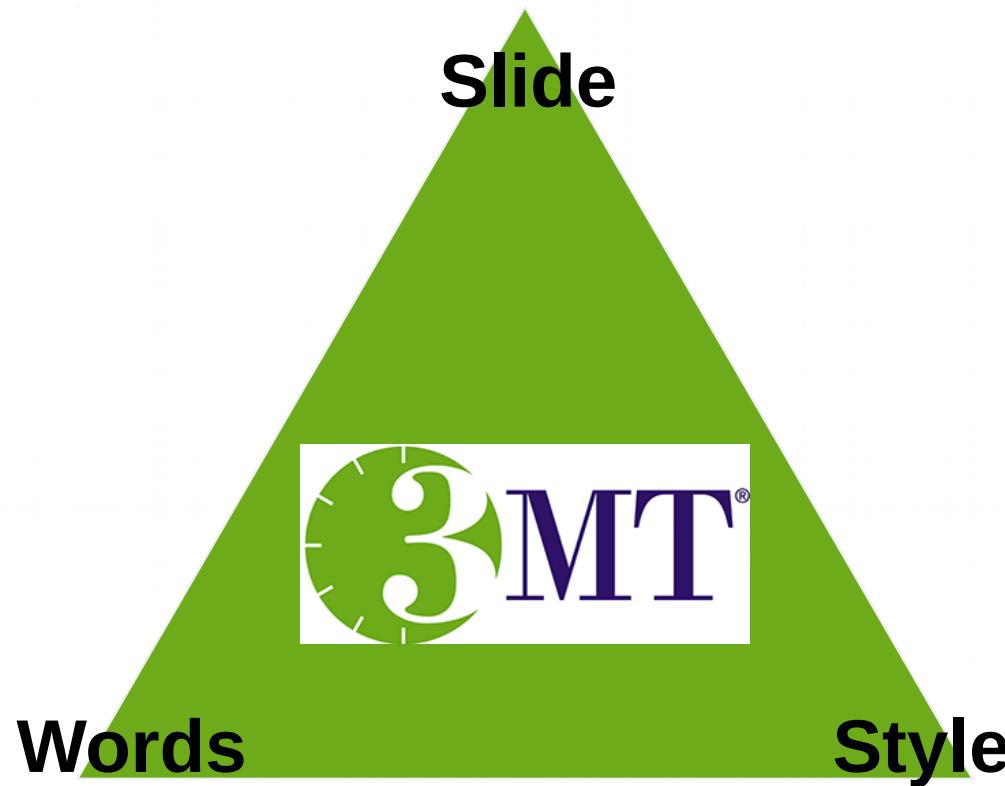


Your style - tips

- Practice, practice, practice
- Find your enthusiasm for your PhD
- Love your script
- Remember this is the audience's first time
- Use movement and gestures
- Believe in yourself

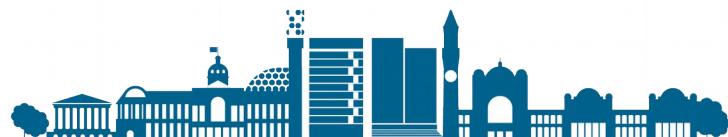


Your 3 minute thesis



Final thoughts

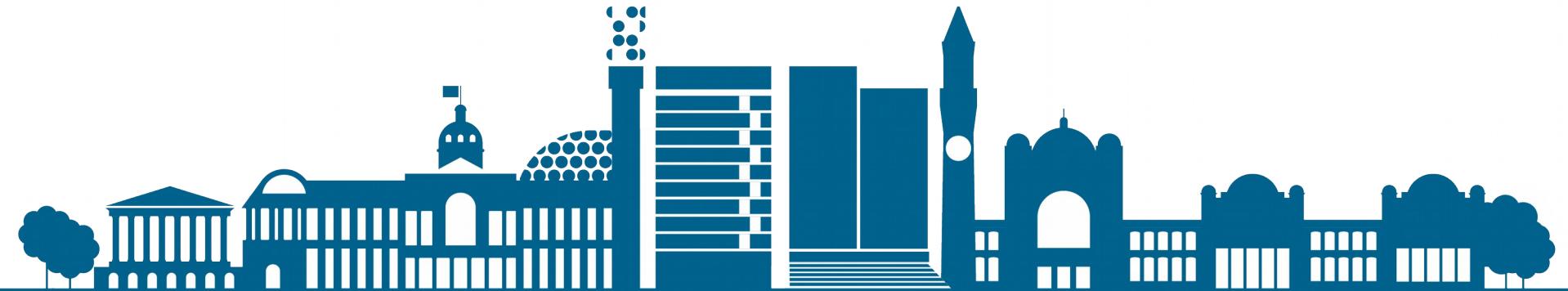
- Read the judging criteria in detail
- Check your timing / pacing
- ENJOY YOURSELF!





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Good luck!



Judging Criteria: Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?



Judging Criteria: Engagement & Communication

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

