

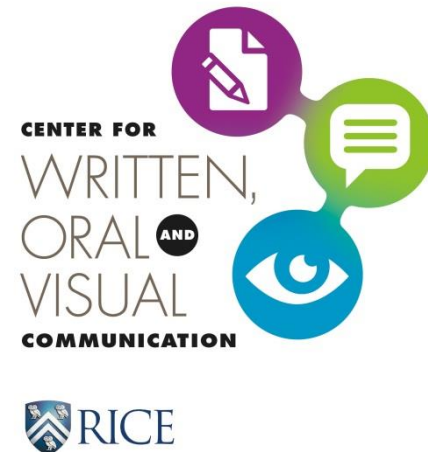
Crafting a Powerful 3MT

Rice inaugural competition

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Three Minute Thesis

THE BASICS

- 3 minutes
- 1 PowerPoint Slide
- Panel of Judges
- Non-special Audience



HISTORY

- Developed by the University of Queensland in Australia in 2008
- Adopted in 62 countries outside of Australia
- More than 200 competitions in the U.S.A.
- More information about 3MT[®] is available at www.threeminutethesis.org

3MT[®] @RICE

**3 MINUTE THESIS
FINALS**

MARCH 9, 2018

**5:30 – 8:00 pm
Lois Chiles Studio Theater
Moody Center for the Arts**



Moody Center for the Arts



Lois Chiles Studio Theater

Eligibility

- Students must be currently enrolled in a thesis masters or doctoral graduate program at Rice University.
- Students must be working on thesis or dissertation research.
- The presentation must include findings and/or outcomes of the research. Research proposals will not be accepted.
- Work presented must have been conducted at Rice University.

Why should you participate?

Practice communicating your research to a non-specialist audience – an important skill!

- Improve your public speaking skills
- Create funding opportunities
- Opens opportunities for collaborations
- Crystalize the purpose of your research in your own mind
- Receive professional coaching
- Enhance your CV
- Obtain a professional video of your talk to share with others
- Prepare for a thesis defense, conference talk, or interview
- Raise your profile - Promote your research and its impacts on society
- Network with alumni
- Win prizes!
- Grand Prize winner will represent Rice University at the Council of Southern Graduate Schools Regional Competition

Competition Structure

- Preliminary Rounds
 - Week of February 26
 - Provide students time slots
 - Panel of Rice faculty and staff will provide scores and feedback
 - Talks will be recorded for your personal use
- Finals
 - March 9th
 - The top 10 - 12 students from the preliminary rounds will be invited to participate in the final round
 - Panel of Judges – Rice alumni, faculty, and administrators
 - Awards - Grand Prize, Runner up, Audience's Choice

Timeline

Registration Deadline	January 14, 2018 by 11:59pm
Coaching Sessions	January 15 – February 23, 2018
Preliminary Rounds	Week of February 26, 2018
Finalist Coaching	March 1 – 7, 2018
Dress Rehearsals for Finalists	March 8 and 9, 2018
2018 Rice University Three Minute Thesis Competition	March 9, 2018 5:30 – 8:00 pm in Lois Chiles Studio Theater Moody Center for the Arts

Three Minute Thesis—Rules and Regulations

- One single static slide; no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are three minutes max; anyone going over three minutes is disqualified
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Note: Variations of the competition do permit more than 1 slide as well as other types of visual aids (e.g. UC Grad Slam)

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?
- 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?
- Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes **communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience**?
- Did the speaker **avoid jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information** to illustrate points?

Judging Criteria—Engagement & Communication

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize 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?

Anatomy of the 3MT

Promoting audience investment

- Opening sentences of your pitch should be...
 - Immediately intriguing
 - Relatable to a non-expert's experience
 - Memorable
- Try offering...
 - A surprising fact or statistic
 - An urgent social issue
 - A current event the audience will know
 - A resonant description of a societal problem

Presenting the Research Question or Problem

- Identify a scientific, technological, cultural, social, or political problem to be solved (narrow your focus—frame your talk)
- Offer concise background details to make this problem meaningful (use metaphors or analogies if the problem is hard to understand)
- Explain the relevance of the problem or question within your discipline
 - Why is this an important problem/question?
 - How have others attempted to solve the problem or answer the question in the past?
 - What has been inadequate about these solutions?

Explain your approach

Advocate for your approach

- Explain your method in simple terms (which models, analytical tools, equations, equipment, interdisciplinary insights and why?)
- Articulate how you have improved on previous approaches
- Identify the feasibility of your approach (cost, time, logistics of implementation)

Make your methods accessible

- Decide which details are necessary to explain and which could be omitted
- Explain using analogies if relevant
- Define any field-specific terms

Illuminating why it matters...impacts

- Developing new technologies or methods for...
 - Promoting a cleaner environment
 - Maximizing efficiency
 - Saving costs
 - Protecting the safety and welfare of workers
 - Address/redressing a social ill
- Discuss future areas for study
- Discuss connections between your work and other researchers' efforts---how does your work help other scholars answer their questions

End memorably

- Remind the audience of your unique insight
- Restate why it is important--how it addresses a significant problem
- Try to come full circle if appropriate—gesture back to the reference or image you used to promote audience investment.

Crafting strong visual(s)

- Map
- Data set
- Diagram (of a model or method)
- Photographs
- Avoid the title slide—not necessary
- Do *not* glut slides with multiple data sets—be very selective!
- Do *not* include images that do not help the audience's comprehension
- Avoid using text/bullets
- Do use color and make designs attractive

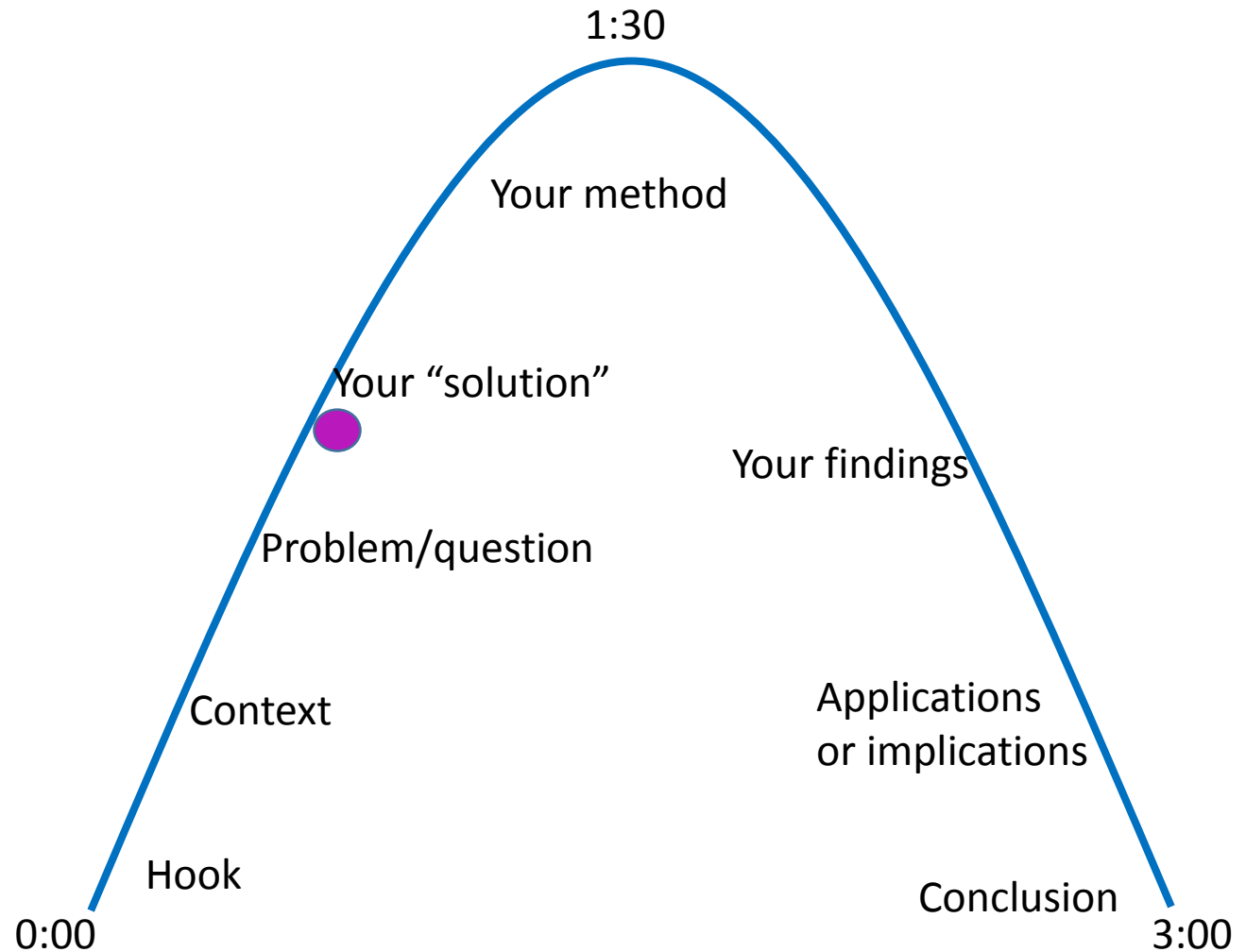
Tips for composing a script...

Craft a narrative arc

Time hacks

- 1 min. hook and context for the problem
- 1 min. proposed solution and method
- 1 min. potential impacts, applications, and conclusion

- 30-45 sec. hook and context for the problem
- 2:00-2:15 min. method, solutions, findings
- 15-30 sec. implications of research and conclusion



Grand scale: reflect on scale and scope

- What is one research question/problem that you'd like to focus on in your talk?
- What aspects of your method (your approach to answering the question/solving the problem) are most important for you to explain? Could you use an analogy or metaphor to explain your approach to the audience?
- What findings are most significant for you to mention?
- What are 1-2 images/data sets that would help you to explain the problem/question or your method of solving it?

Sentence level—keep audience in mind

- Focus on concision (~450-475 words is a “safe” length)
- Imagine a freshman non-major as audience
- Limit the number of field-specific terms that you use
- Use strong transitional signal words (However, Yet, While, But, For example, For instance, Similarly)

Sentence level--be memorable and natural

- Repeat key phrases
- Connect your work to popular cultural references as appropriate
- Add possessives (e.g. “*My* research....”)
- Keep sentences relatively short
- Use conversational language for the most part
- Remove/rephrase word choices or phrasings that cause you to stumble
- Choose words that are easier to pronounce and hear (if possible)

Perform your Pitch

- Memorize
- Vary pace
- Vary inflection
- Enunciate
- Should eliminate fillers (uh/uhm)
- Do not go over time
- Maintain good posture
- Maintain eye contact
- Incorporate content-related gestures
- Be confident and excited

Sample Videos

“A New Approach to Cooling Hypersonic Vehicles”

Benjamin Huang, University of Virginia, Chemical Engineering, 3MT competition

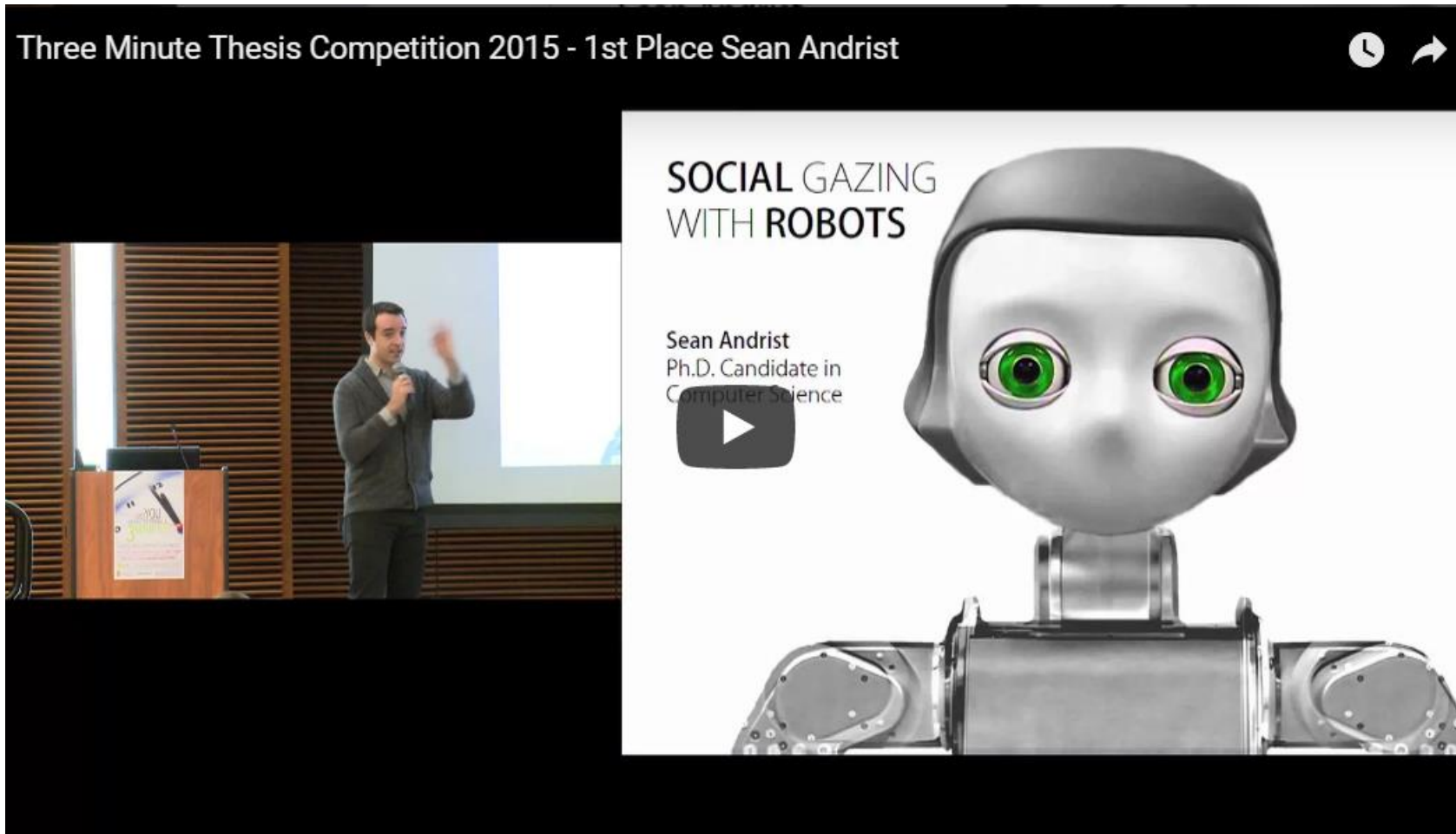
<https://youtu.be/FtwKMKVgUHE>



“Social Gazing with Robots”

Sean Andrist, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Computer Science

<https://youtu.be/kDivUilrfJ4>



“Renaissance on the Bayou: Reviving the Chitimacha Language”

Daniel Hieber, University of California, Santa Barbara, Linguistics, UC Grad Slam competition

<https://youtu.be/QRNOHKjA2q4?t=46m53s>

The image shows a video player interface displaying a presentation slide. The slide features a circular portrait of Daniel Hieber on the left. To the right of the portrait, the title of his performance is displayed in several stacked boxes: "RENAISSANCE ON THE BAYOU: REVIVING THE CHITIMACHA LANGUAGE". Below the title, the text "CAMPUS UC SANTA BARBARA" and "FIELD OF STUDY LINGUISTICS" is shown. In the bottom right corner of the slide, there is a logo for "GRAD SLAM" featuring a stylized microphone. The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar, and a timestamp of 46:53 / 1:16:04.

DANIEL HIEBER

RENAISSANCE ON THE BAYOU: REVIVING THE CHITIMACHA LANGUAGE

CAMPUS
UC SANTA BARBARA

FIELD OF STUDY
LINGUISTICS

GRAD SLAM

46:53 / 1:16:04

Next Steps

- Register! Registration closes on January 14, 2018
 - <http://3mt.rice.edu/register/>
 - All those that register are invited to participate in the preliminary rounds.
- Plan your 3MT presentation – start early!
 - Check out helpful resources at <http://3mt.rice.edu/resources/>
- Set up an appointment with a CWOVC Consultant. Appointments starting in January
 - More information at <http://3mt.rice.edu/coaching/>

REGISTER BY JANUARY 14

3MT[®]

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**3 MINUTE THESIS
COMPETITION**

MARCH 9, 2018

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

**Week of
February 26, 2018**