

# Three Minute Thesis (3MT) presentations in BIOL 351/352 Labs: Challenges and opportunities

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**Biology retreat** (August 9, 2016)



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# The University of British Columbia's (UBC) Vision: "PLACE AND PROMISE"

"Expand educational enrichment opportunities, including **research**, a first year small class experience, international learning, community service learning, and co-op/ practicum/ internship opportunities".



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# Plant Physiology Courses - Background

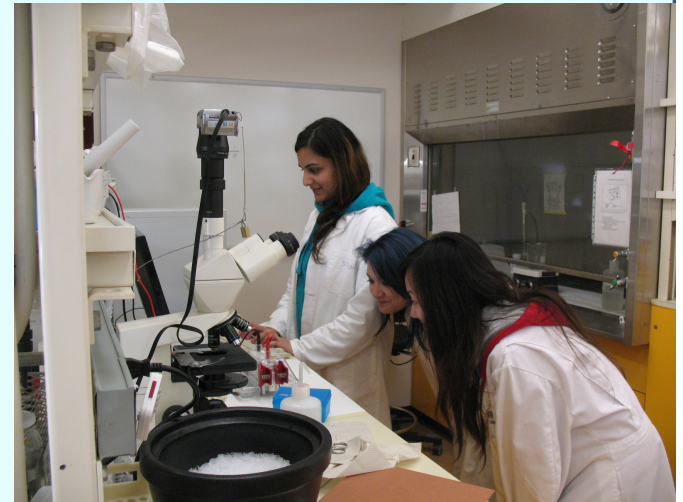
- **BIOL 351 (FRST 311/APBI 351):** 4 credits (lecture and lab components); focuses on the processes contributing to the assimilation, transport and utilization of water, mineral nutrients and carbon by plants
- **BIOL 352:** 3 credits (lecture, tutorial and lab components); focuses on the processes involved in growth and development
- **Biology Program requirement:** Plant Physiology lab credits count towards Biology laboratory credit requirements
- **Students:** Third- and fourth-year students in the Biology program (Faculty of Science) and students from the Faculties of Forestry and Land & Food Systems

# Enriched Educational Experience (EEE) in BIOL 351 and BIOL 352 Labs

## 1. Independent Research Projects:

Students design, implement and analyze independent, open-ended research projects

- ❖ Research project proposal
- ❖ Project experiments



## 2. Scientific communication:

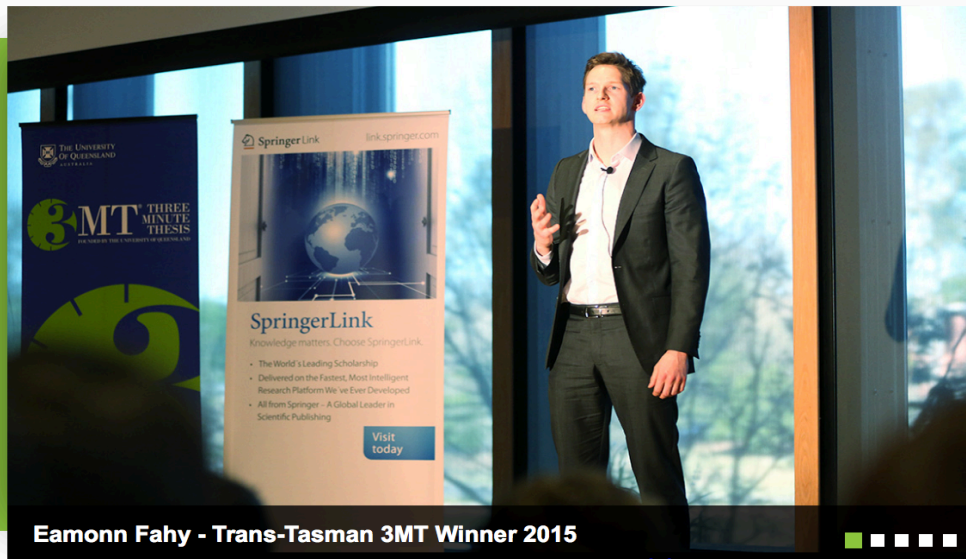
- ❖ **Written reports:** students write journal-style research papers
- ❖ **Oral presentations:** ?

I introduced a modified version of “Three Minute Thesis or 3MT”

# Three Minute Thesis (3MT)



HOME ABOUT 3MT COMPETITIONS 3MT SHOWCASE CONTACT



An 80,000 word thesis would take 9 hours to present.

Their time limit... 3 minutes

 Watch >

<http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/three-minute-thesis>

- “**3MT**” is a graduate student research communication competition initially developed by The University of Queensland in 2008.
- Each student has **three minutes** to explain the breadth and significance of his/her graduate research using one static slide.
- Helps improve students' **academic, presentation, and research communication skills.**

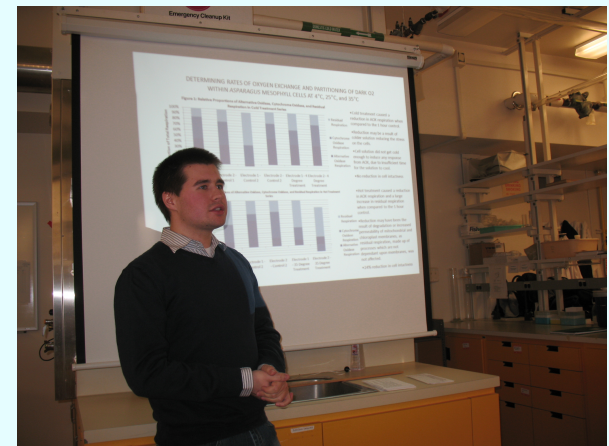
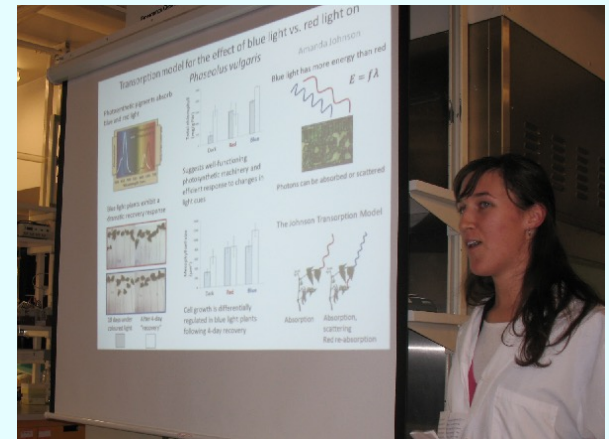
# Three Minute Thesis (3MT) in BIOL351/352

## “3MT” as an Assessment Tool:

- ❖ Introduced “3MT” as an assessment tool for BIOL 351, BIOL352 and BIOL448.
- ❖ Each student gives a 3 min, single slide presentation on his/her research project.
- ❖ Assessment by students, TAs and Instructor

## Criteria:

- ❖ Communication style
- ❖ Comprehension
- ❖ Engagement



# 3MT: Opportunities and Challenges

## Challenges:

- ❖ Requires more time and practice
- ❖ Needs more feedback

## Opportunities:

- ❖ To improve presentation and research communication skills
- ❖ To assess the significance of the research and how it relates to the society, and environment.

## Students' comments:

*“Just like ‘the elevator speech’ in business circles, the “3-minute presentation” is a highly effective way to teach communication/presentation skills - loved it”*

*“Wow-it was a good exercise to have to make my results succinct and make it applicable to “real world”.*

## Acknowledgements

### UBC Colleagues

**Carl Douglas**  
**Geoff Wasteneys**  
**Shawn Mansfield**  
**Robert Guy**

### Funding

**UBC Botany**  
**Skylight (FOS)**  
**UBC Plant Ops**  
**TLEF**

**Students and TAs**  
**BIOL351/APBI351**  
**/FRST311,**  
**BIOL352;**  
**Jarnail Mehroke**

### UBC SEEDS

**Liska Richer**





# Thank you!

## Questions?



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