Student Research Symposium 3-minute Speech Competition Rules & Criteria

Rules

1. A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or movement of any description; the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
2. No additional electronic media permitted (e.g., sound or video files).
3. No additional props permitted (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, lab equipment).
4. Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
5. Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps, or songs).
6. Time starts when you start speaking. We will have someone at the back of the room who will hold up a card when you have one minute left, and then when you have 30 seconds left.
7. Notes or note cards are not allowed. This is an "elevator speech" – you wouldn't use notes if you had three minutes with Elon Musk to get him interested in funding your research, you would speak from the heart. Use the same approach here.

Judging Criteria

1. Comprehension: Did you effectively communicate what work is being done and how for a general, but educated, audience. Did you explain the significance of this research? Did your presentation follow a logical sequence?
2. Engagement: Did you deliver a clear, concise, and engaging presentation of your research? Were you enthusiastic about your work? Did you make the audience want to know more?
3. Style: Was your slide designed to clearly and effectively communicate your research to the audience? Did you make sufficient eye contact, have a confident stance, and maintain a steady speaking pace? Did you avoid jargon and explain discipline-specific terms appropriately for an educated general audience?

Online Resources for 3-minute Speech examples

- The original 3 Minute Thesis Competition (with video examples): http://threeminutethesis.org/
- Helpful tips: http://vividmethod.com/a-short-speech-create-a-3-minute-speech-that-rocks/
- YouTube and Vimeo both have multiple 3 minute thesis examples

Updated 01.10.2019