Dear contestants,

All of us are getting ready to excel with our thesis topic during the first international 3 minute thesis contest. To give all of us an equal start, I gladly list the latest information.

**Contest information**

Date and time of the contest: Tuesday 28 January 2014 at 17 o’clock Milton Keynes time (utc). 18:00 CEU, 10:00 MST, 11:00 CST.

Online location of the contest: <https://connect.athabascau.ca/threeminthesis/>

Mobile back-up option for iPad and iPhone: [https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/adobe-connect-mobile-for-ios/id430437503?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D2](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/adobe-connect-mobile-for-ios/id430437503?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%253D2)

Emergency back-up audio - Use Skype or direct call to Canada 1-780-421-1483 with the participant Code: 85165(this does demand that you have a bit of phone credit on Skype) This telephone audio will be brought into the Connect session , but it will not be of high quality, please try to get your audio working well on Connect (see below) for practice sessions

Please send your **ONE slide** overview for your thesis to Inge de Waard ([ingedewaard@gmail.com](mailto:ingedewaard@gmail.com)) on Monday 27 January 2014 at the latest.

**Word of warning**

* It is an online contest, so if any of us contestants are unable to get a stable audio/video connection, that will be unfortunate for that person presenting but that will result in not being a possible winner (minor glitches are ok, but if the most part is inaudible your talk will not be considered for the winning position). So test your internet connection and the online meeting room now here: <https://connect.athabascau.ca/threeminthesis/> Under the “meeting” tab, there is a drop down menu item listed as “Audio Wizard” Clicking this will allow you to test both your microphone and your speakers.
* You need to talk for 3 minutes tops. So after three minutes the moderator Terry Anderson will interrupt and the talk will end. So be timely!

**Process:**

All the contestants will talk one after the other in alphabetical order (based on first name)

The judges will grade each of the speakers using a set of criteria listed below, after everyone has spoken. The judges will discuss the winner in a separate room. A winner will be announced.

While the judges are out of the room, the public can vote here:

<http://www.easypolls.net/poll.html?p=52cc4687e4b0a754eac495c0> using an online poll, the URL will be revealed at the end of the contest.

**Judges criteria**

Just adding them to provide you a better understanding of what the judges will be looking for in order to choose a winner:

Comprehension

* 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?

Engagement

* 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?

Communication

* 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 speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace; and have a confident stance?
* Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?
* Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible and concise?

**Judging Criteria - People's Choice**

Comprehension: Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?

Engagement: Did the oration make the audience want to know more?

Communication: Was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience?

Looking forward to it!

Best wishes,

Inge