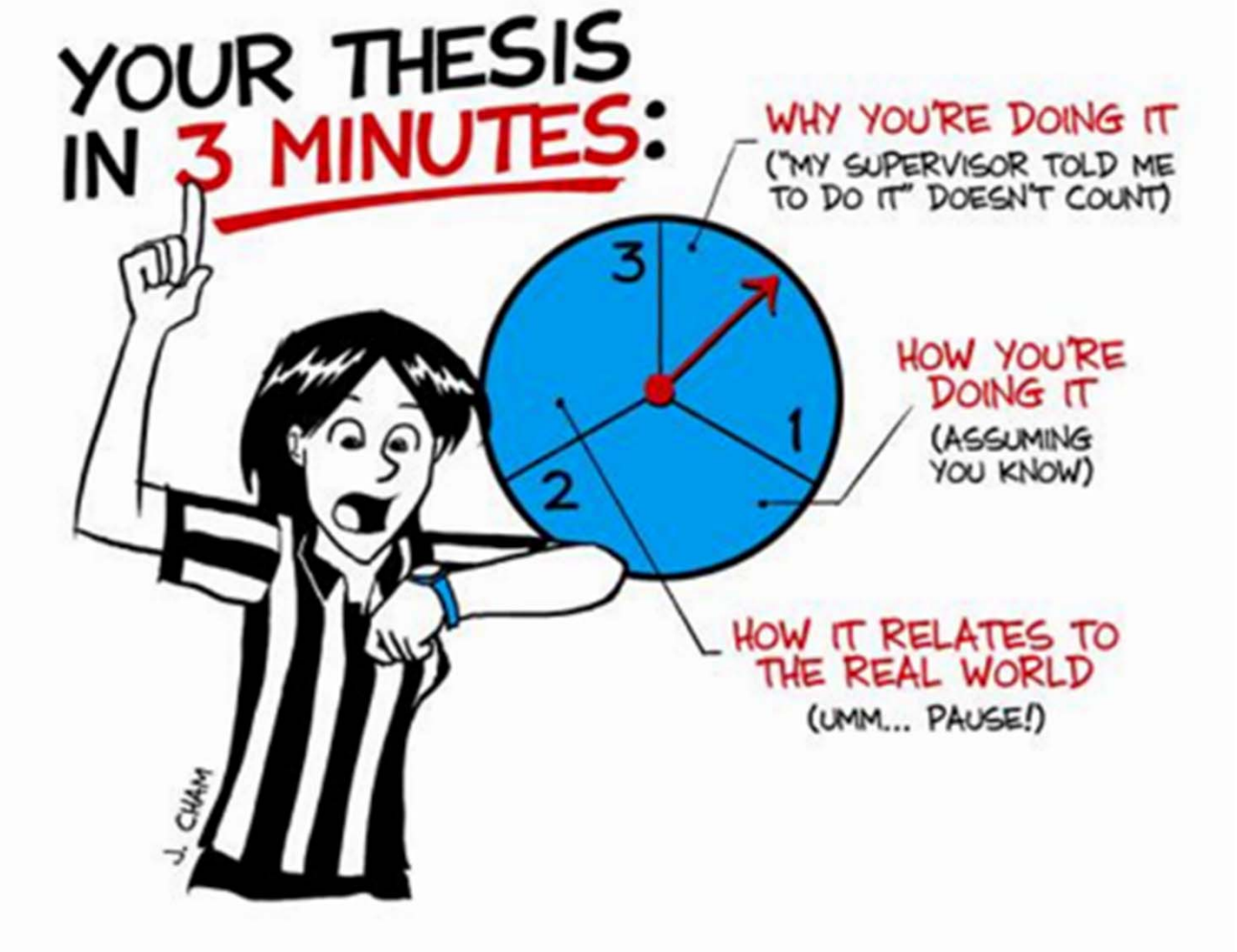
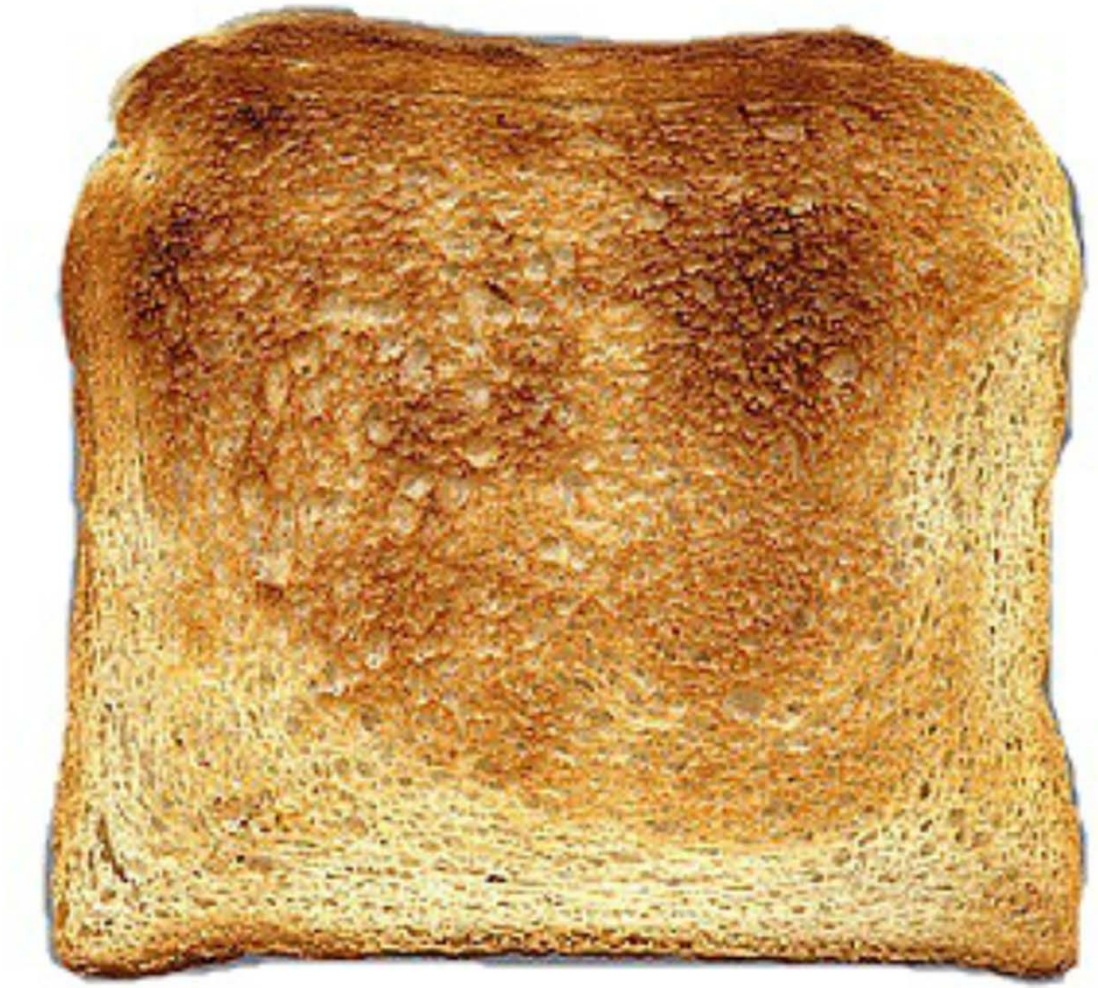
University of Windsor Coaching Session

Nick Baker
Laura Chittle
Elizabeth Ismail

What is the 3MT?



In other words, it shouldn't be like this:



Generating Ideas for the 3 minute Thesis Presentation

To Do	To Avoid

Generating Ideas for the 3 minute Thesis Presentation

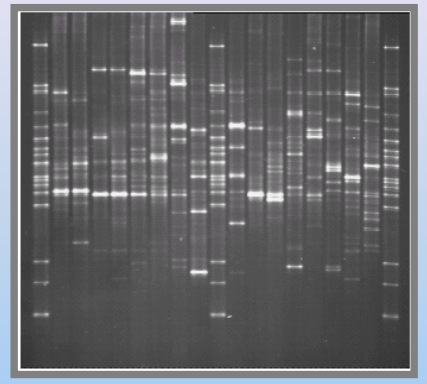
Include in your slide:

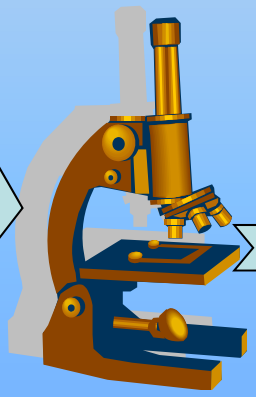
_____

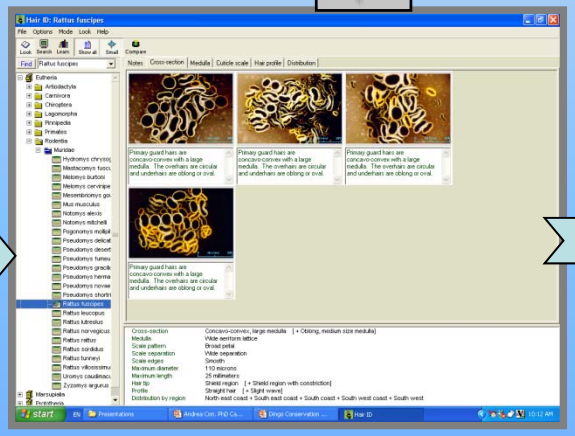
_____

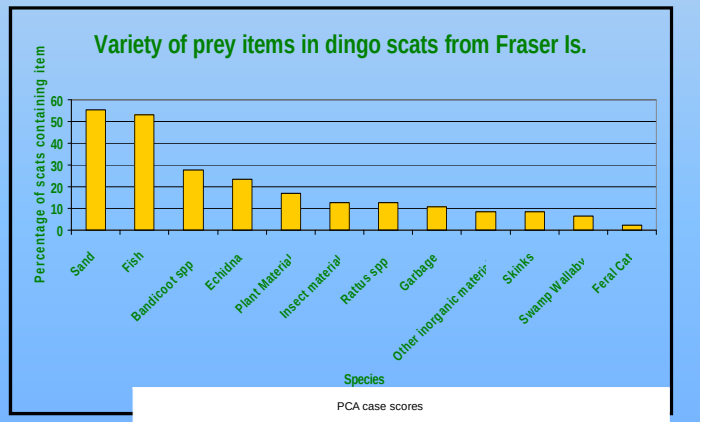
_____

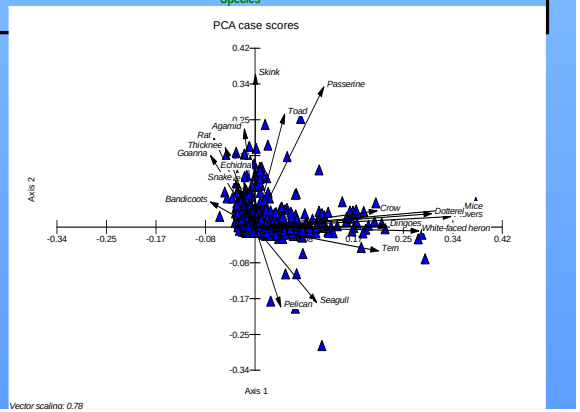
The ecology and behaviour of the dingo (Canis lupus dingo) on Fraser Is., Australia











The ecology and behaviour of the dingo (*Canis lupus dingo*) on Fraser Is., Australia

What do we need to know?

- Human interactions
- Predator-prey relationships
- Population genetics
- Activity patterns
- Conservation status

Outcomes

- Conservation management plan
- Risk modelling and abatement
- *Three E's Approach*
  - Engineering
  - Enforcement
  - Education

Nick Baker
PhD Candidate
School of Animal Studies
University of Qld, Gatton

A good 3MT presentation...

Doesn't try to say too much

Is delivered fairly slowly

Has expression (pauses, rises, falls and stresses)

Includes a story, metaphor or emotional element

Gives concrete examples

Doesn't ‘telegraph’

Tells you things you didn't expect to hear about the topic

What else?

Based on Mewburn, I. 2018

A framework for action

In "Made to Stick" Chip and Dan Heath claim that this formula makes information rich presentations unforgettable:

Simple

Unexpected

Concrete

Credible (we won't deal with this)

Emotional

Stories

Based on Mewburn, I. 2018

Let's work on Simple

3MT® THREE MINUTE THESIS
FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Complete the following sentence.

"The purpose of my research is..."
(max. 50 words)

Share your sentence with the person next to you

Based on Mewburn, I. 2018

Research by Nick Youngson CC BY-SA 3.0 Alpha Stock Images

Let's work on Unexpected

Tell us an interesting fact about your research!

All of you will know something that has probably ceased being of interest to you, but is new to the rest of us

For example:

- There is no significant difference between learning online and learning in class
- Microbats use sonar to navigate, but they are not blind and actually have good vision
- Predators are more likely to attack humans if long-term rainfall decreases

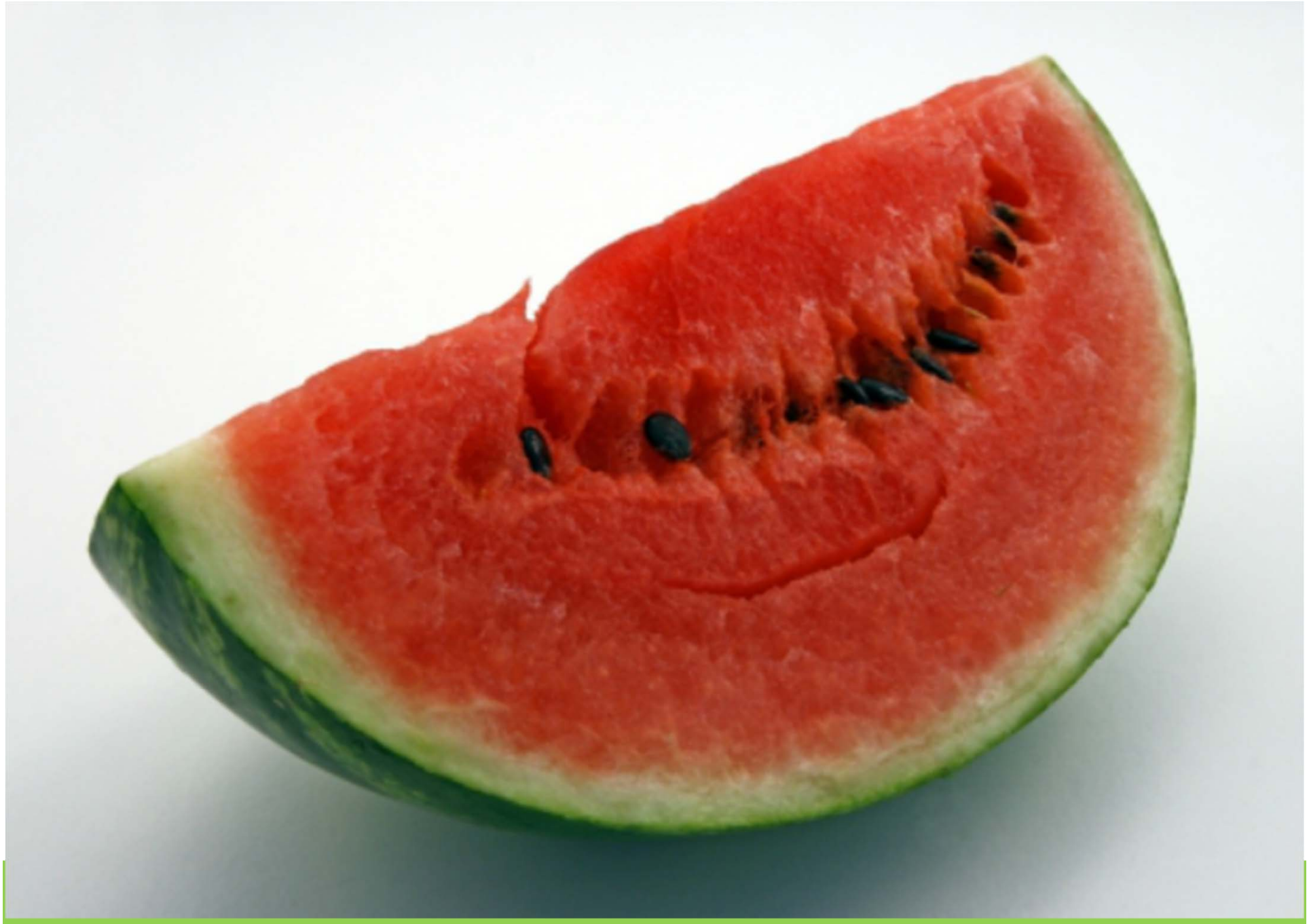
Take 2 minutes to think about it, then share a fact about your research

Based on Mewburn, I. 2018

Let's work on Concrete

Close your eyes... and listen to me

Based on Mewburn, I. 2018



Emotions

In research writing we are usually trained not to use emotional arguments, but in the 3MT it is essential

Here's some emotions you can work with:

"What's in it for me?" (WIFM)

"Oh, how sad :-("

"Interesting!"

"That's mysterious...“

You need to convey your passion for your work – convince people it is exciting!

Based on Mewburn, I. 2018

People don't remember everything you said, but they always remember how you make them feel

Based on Mewburn, I. 2018

Image by Ryan McGuire on Pixabay

Story

Including a story can help you work in an emotional angle

Good stories include the following elements:

- Characters (they don't have to be human)
- A beginning, middle and end (not necessarily in that order)
- Some kind of change or transformation
- A "call to action"

Based on Mewburn, I. 2018

Key things to remember

Don't

- Crowd your slides with too much information
- Provide huge amounts of text
- Talk too quickly
- Use jargon or acronymns
- Look at your slide
- Overuse humour – it's not standup, but some humour used carefully can be engaging
- Move around too much
- Think of it as a lecture – it needs to be the *performance of a story to connect with the audience*

Key things to remember

Do

- Be passionate, but relaxed
- Know your script
- Stick to time! (you *will* be disqualified for going over)
- Practice...a lot – preferably in front of others
- Remember you are presenting to a lay audience
- Focus on one or two key points – it's like an abstract
- Maintain eye contact with and engage the audience
- Recognise the opportunity this represents
- Have fun!

WORKSHEET FOR MAKING A POINT:

® THREE MINUTE THESIS
SITY OF QUEENSLAND

1. **Make a Concise Statement**
   How can you most simply and clearly state your point?

2. **Display it visually**
   What visuals would best support your point?

3. **Re-express it ("in other words . . .")**
   Try several different ways of stating your point. Imagine seeing/hearing this statement from the point of view of your listener.

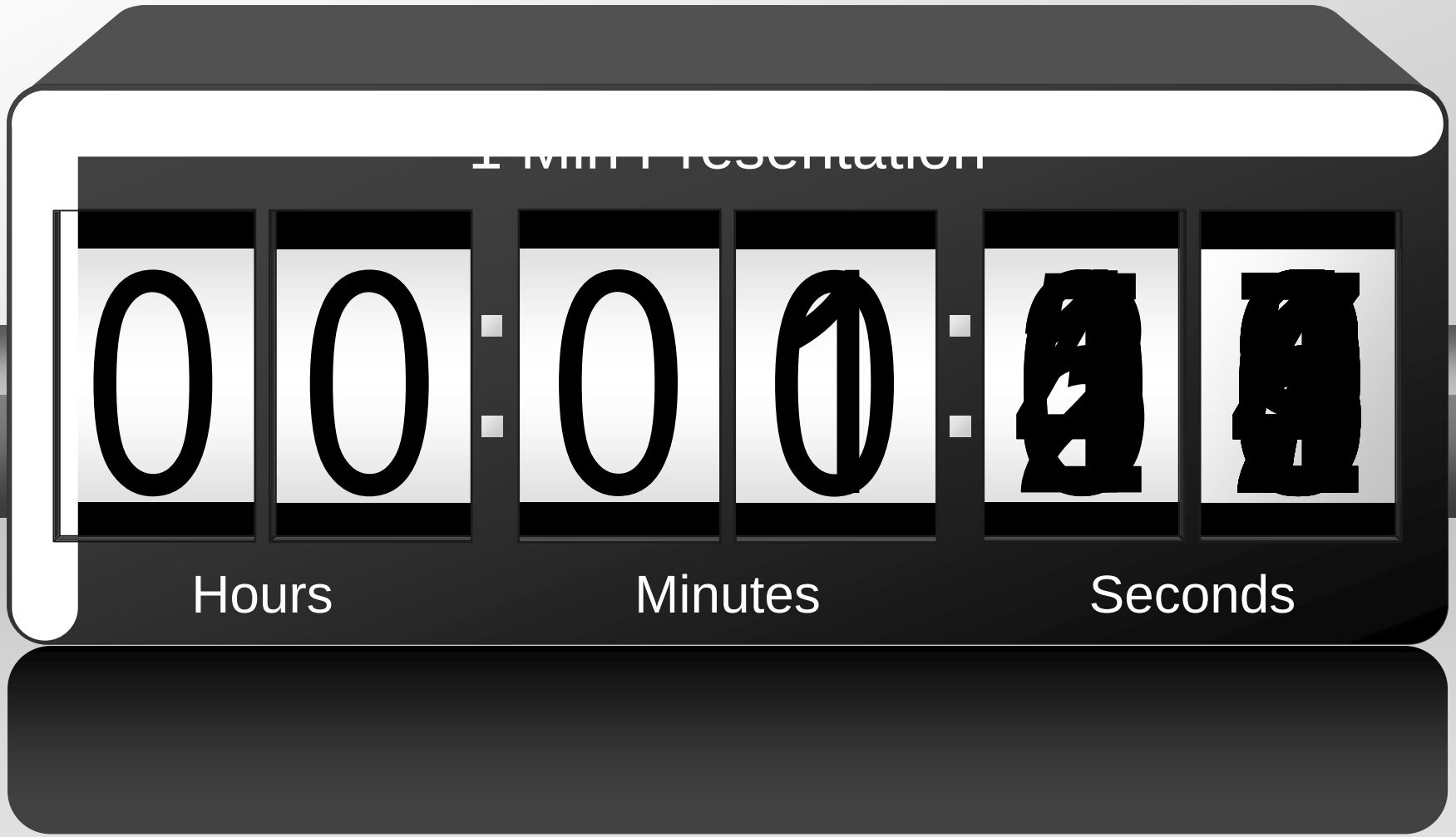
4. **Elaborate, using: details, illustrations, reasons, analogies, context, examples, etc.**
   This is where you make connections to *meaning.* How does your point relate to the rest of your listener's world? Jot down some ideas you might use to make your point meaningful.

5. **Summarize and re-state the point.**
   How would you word a summary? Which details and connections are the most important?

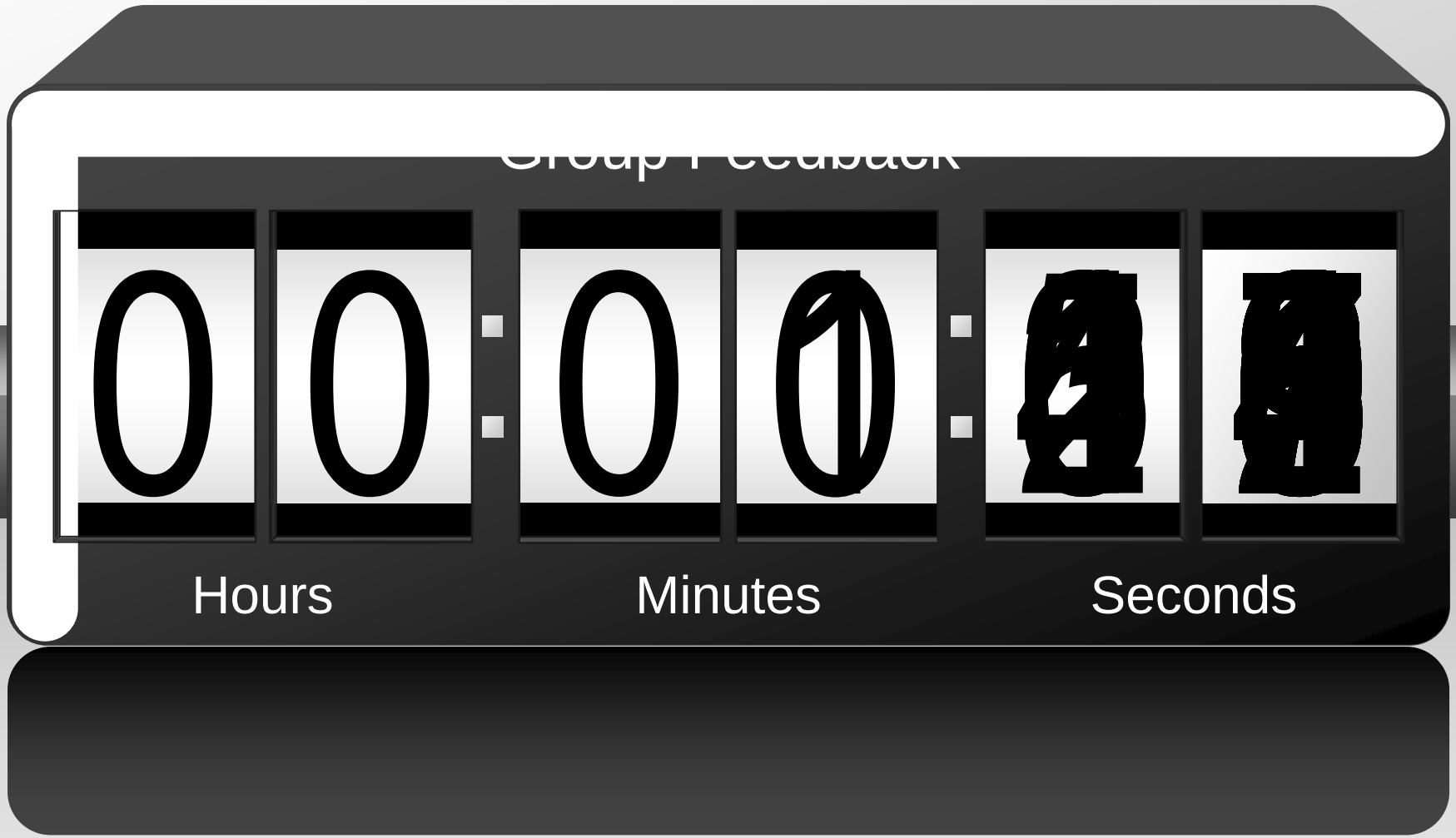
Where to get more information

- **Windsor's 3MT site:** http://www.uwindsor.ca/graduate/three-minute-thesis

- **University of Qld site:** http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/three-minute-thesis
- **3Minute Thesis organisation:** https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/resources/3mt-competitor-guide
- **Example videos from finalists:** http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/uq-3mt-2012
- **UBC guide:** http://www.grad.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/materials/gps_3MT.pdf
- **Thesis Whisperer blog -** www.thesiswhisperer.com


1 Min Presentation
00:01:
Hours
Minutes
Seconds

Group Feedback
00:02:21
Hours
Minutes
Seconds


Group Feedback
0 0 : 0 0 : 0 0
Hours
Minutes
Seconds