

## Senior Project Talks – Getting Started

**Time Limit:**

**12 – 18 minute presentation**

**15 - 20 minutes of Thesis Defense and Q+A**

Think of your talk as having 3 really important and distinct components: A beginning, a middle, and an end. These components are reflected in the rubric. Here's what you should focus on when sculpting your talk.

### **The Beginning:**

- State your name (first and last) and your research question.
- Use a hook to bring your audience to attention. This can be funny, catchy, or witty, but should be oriented around your research content in some way.
- Remember, you need to quickly and effectively establish a relationship with your audience.

**The Middle:** How do you present your content while keeping it interesting, engaging, and personal?

- Why not start with your personal journey 'through' this project? For example...
  - How did you come to settle on your research question?
  - What was the lowest/highest point in the creation of this project?
  - Are there any personal anecdotes that can help your audience engage in your content or find meaning in your research?
- Make sure though, that you do get to the main points of your research!
- **The best way to succeed in a thesis defense is to be proactive in addressing the following:**
  - Address and refute your counter arguments effectively
  - Acknowledge some methodological problems, or weaknesses in your research
  - If you had to do this again, would you do anything differently? Why/why not?
- Use some kind of visual aid (not mandatory – if you're doing the naked style – but highly recommended. Use your slides sparingly and effectively!

### **The End:**

- Make sure the implications of your research are clear, and that you understand the importance and urgency of your topic and research.
- Make sure that your passion comes across in your ending!
- Your last statement should leave your audience something deep to ponder.
- End with "Thank you."

The presentation grade consists of two elements: The delivery and the defense. Together, they will equal 30% of your Senior Project grade. Unlike the research paper, there will not be an opportunity to make up or redo either of these components. WYSIWYG.

**Oral Presentation: 20 points**

Criterion		Advanced 4	Proficient 3	Basic 2	Emerging 1
<b>Communication</b>	<b>Non-Verbal Communication</b> Uses supportive gestures, purposeful movements, avoids distracting movements, pacing, fidgeting. * Maintains consistent eye contact throughout				
	<b>Verbal Communication</b> * Projects voice at a clear/comfortable volume * Vocal fillers: No ums, ahs, likes, uhs, etc * Tone: Professional yet extemporaneous tone * Pace is varied, dynamic, and appropriate				
<b>Content</b>	<b>Introductory and Concluding Statements</b> * Your name, research question clearly stated * Hook brings your audience to attention * End with an impact! Audience left pondering.				
	<b>Primary Content</b> * Presented in an entertaining, captivating way * Main points are made clearly and concisely * Counter arguments addressed, refuted * Visual aid clearly/effectively conveys content				
	<b>Conclusions</b> * Implications of the research are clear * Presenter is clear of the importance of topic * Presenter relays passion/conviction for content				

**Thesis Defense: 10 Points**

Do you defend your thesis and methodology in a way that is clear, confident, and decisive?

Strong Defense			Moderate Defense				Weak Defense		
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1