

## Preparing a Presentation for Your Dissertation Defense: Guidelines

### Build the Presentation:

- ▶ Use the presentation from your proposal defense as a start
- ▶ Edit down your proposal presentation
- ▶ Summarize Chapters 1-3
- ▶ Focus on Chapters 4-5

### Check ... and double check:

- ▶ Timing: The presentation should be no longer than 30 minutes
- ▶ Practice multiple times
- ▶ Practice, practice

### Format:

- ▶ DO!
  - Select a conservative slide layout that appears professional
  - Use an easy to read font
  - Use figures and tables
- ▶ DO NOT!
  - Do not add slide transitions, animation or sounds that are distracting
  - Do not crowd slides with excessive text

### Oral Presentation:

- ▶ Create notes in your presentation of the points you want to cover in your oral presentation of each slide.
- ▶ Except for things like the research questions, **do not just read** the slides.
- ▶ Your oral presentation should explain or expand on what is on the slides.

### Title page:

- ▶ Start with a title page that uses the title of the dissertation

### Researcher's Background:

What qualifies you to do this research?

- ▶ Credentials
- ▶ Experience Etc. BE VERY BRIEF!

### Topic Background:

- ▶ Why this topic?
- ▶ History
- ▶ Is there a gap in the research this research addresses?

**You can use more than one slide to address each of the categories.**

Problem statement:

- ▶ Your problem statement should clearly and explicitly state the reasons you are doing your study.

The purpose of this study is to.....

Importance of the research:

- ▶ How might your research impact the field of study?
- ▶ How could it impact your work as a professional?
- ▶ What else is significant?

Theoretical Foundation:

- ▶ Include a slide on the philosophical orientation of your dissertation
- ▶ For example: critical theory or social constructivism
- ▶ Briefly explain why the philosophy relates to your research.

Conceptual Framework:

- ▶ Start by introducing the major categories of literature used in your proposal.
- ▶ Give enough information to make it clear that you have a deep understanding of the literature, but this is only an overview.
- ▶ Properly cite authors and years.

Research questions:

- ▶ Number questions for easy reference during discussions with the committee members.

Methodology:

- ▶ Define which major category of research you used for your dissertation.
- ▶ Why is that appropriate to your research questions?
- ▶ Cite methodology literature in support of your choice of methodology.

Specifics on methodology:

- ▶ Participants—number, how selected, IRB considerations, demographics
- ▶ Reliability and validity
- ▶ Methods of data collection
- ▶ Data analysis
- ▶ Limitations

You may need multiple slides for these categories

Findings:

- ▶ Use the organizational structure from your Chapter 4.

- ▶ Present enough detail to be convincing, but not so much that you get “lost in the weeds!”
- ▶ Use tables from your dissertation.
- ▶ Call attention to significant findings.
- ▶ Address how the findings relate to the research questions.

**You will need multiple slides for this section.**

Conclusions:

- ▶ What did you learn?
- ▶ How are the findings related to the conceptual framework from the literature?
- ▶ Discuss strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of your work.

Implications:

- ▶ For future scholarship/research
- ▶ For practitioners
- ▶ Other?

Recommendations:

- ▶ For changes in theoretical constructs
- ▶ For public policy
- ▶ For changes in educational practice

References:

- ▶ List only those cited in the presentation.
- ▶ One slide should be enough
  - (Everything else is already included in your dissertation!)

Thank you:

- ▶ Thank the members of the committee.