

Preparing for Oral Defense

Welcome everyone to our um, RSE webinar.

We have Dr. Nicole Baker here, um, to tell us about or share with us about preparing for oral defense and presenting research findings.

Um, so I will turn it over to her to allow her to introduce herself and we're so glad that she is sharing this information with us, um, to help us do better with our presentation.

So thank you Dr. Baker.

Alright, everybody. Okay, so my name is Dr. Nicole Baker and I am a doctoral area chair for the University of Phoenix.

I have served in a role of a dissertation committee chair before, and currently I'm also a university research methodologist.

And so today's presentation, I'm just going to be helping you and sharing some tips to help you prepare for oral defense.

Um, just so that I know who I'm talking to, if you could please go in the chat and if you could let me know where you are in the program.

Um, it's, it's more helpful for me to know.

Are you getting ready to, are you getting ready for oral defense? Are you right at the end or are you here towards the beginning just to get more information? So if you could put that in the chat, that will be helpful.

I, Okay, I see a 7 23 chapters.

Four and five. Good.

All right. Please feel free to keep responding to those, um, approved proposal.

Hoping to start my last class doc 7 42, preparing for oral defense.

Excellent. Just started week six of DOC 7 42. Fantastic.

Okay, so it sounds like, um, sounds like everybody is in at least the dissertation courses and most of you are towards the end, which is great.

You guys are getting to that milestone.

Alright, uh, now let me minimize this so that I can see again.

Okay, so tonight's, uh, agenda we're going to go over what is the world defense.

We're going to talk about presentation basics and then looking at the content of what goes into your oral defense.

And then I, I will be sharing lots of resources for you and then we'll talk about what to expect that day as well.

If we have some time, we're gonna go over a couple samples of what some good defenses look like.

Um, if we don't have time and we run out of time, we do have recordings of really good defenses that you can watch on your own time.

And I will be sharing the link to that towards the end of the presentation as well.

Um, for this presentation, if I'm ever going too fast, if you have questions, please do feel free just to come off mute and ask your question.

Um, I will be looking at the chat and Dr.

Stella is here kind of monitoring the chat as well. So, Dr.

Stella, please just jump right in too if I'm not seeing something that's in the chat.

'cause my, my screen is full screen so I'm not really, uh, paying too much attention to the chat chat, but just everyone, I'll have it open.

Okay. Alright, great. So what is the oral defense? And so I want you to take a look at the information that's on my screen right now.

And, um, in this it says, after receiving quality review final or QRF or approval of your dissertation, you must conduct and pass your formal oral defense as a doctoral candidate.

The purpose of the oral defense is for doctoral candidates to demonstrate competence in describing, discussing, and supporting all aspects of their dissertation study to their chair and to committee members.

Although the oral defense is a time of celebration where you can showcase your dissertation study, it is a serious milestone that you must pass before the University of Phoenix School of Advanced Studies will confer your doctoral degree.

Okay? Now, the information that I just gave to you is a horrible example of what you should do for your oral defense.

Okay? I don't know if you noticed, but as we were going through that, I was literally reading my slides.

I was reading this slide that makes for a poor defense that makes for a poor presentation.

Your committee members are capable of reading, we are capable of you just giving us your PowerPoint and we can read it ourselves.

We don't want that. We want to hear from you.

We want to hear your voice.

And so this slide is a very bad example of what you should do in your oral defense.

Um, and so we are gonna talk about that and I'm gonna show you the revised version.

I purposely made it very wordy.

Um, anytime that you are working on your PowerPoint presentation, anytime you're putting full sentences on there, you are going to be tempted to read them, and that's not what we want.

You should not be reading your oral defense.

You should be presenting it with confidence, because after all, by the time you get to that point in your, um, in your dissertation journey, you are an expert on your topic.

You are an expert on your methodology, and we want to hear from you that we know that you are an expert.

We do not want to hear you reading from your slides because you are capable of looking up something and putting onto a slide that doesn't tell us what you know.

That tells us what you are capable of looking up. Okay? So I'm going to go off of the slide and I'm going to just say, what is the oral defense? Well, it's the point in your dissertation journey that comes all the way at the end.

So by the time you get to oral defense, you will have your chapters one through five approved by your committee members.

You will have submitted each chapter to TK 20.

You will have obtained approval while making all those revisions all along.

And then your oral defense comes towards the end when you are working on your chapters four and chapters five.

Typically, this happens when you're, uh, you write your chapters four and five when in your DOC 7 42 class.

And once your committee members have a handle, once they've completed their first review in that class, they will have a pretty good idea of a timeframe for your oral defense.

7 42 is one of the classes that has three iterations.

So they're 7 42, they're 7 42 A, and they're 7 42 B.

It's a three iteration course.

And you should tell yourself that I'm going to need all three iterations because sometimes students just need it.

And what happens in chapters four and five is you are reporting your data, you are explaining what you did, you are analyzing either your statistics or your themes and you are presenting that information.

And for some students it can be kind of tricky because you have to present your information in a way that other people are going to be able to understand.

And so for that reason, sometimes there are, sometimes you will need all three iterations of that class.

I will say though, students who, there are many, many, many students, I would say the students that I've worked with, the majority of them are finishing DOC 7 42 in just one iteration, which is great.

You will better your chances of only needing one iteration if you are coming into DOC 7 42 prepared.

If you are coming in with all of your prior revisions made.

And you are coming into DOC 7 42 with your chapter four, with your, um, with your data already analyzed, with your themes already identified with your, the quotes from your participants that you want to share if you have all that done already.

And a way of doing that is just to write your chapter four.

And I would even recommend writing all or at least most of your chapter five.

And if you do those things, you're going to better your chances of being able to pass 7 42 on the first iteration and being able to prepare for oral defense.

So oral defense, your committee members will start having that discussion with you when it comes time, when they see that, they're pretty sure that your chapters one through five are going to get QRF approval.

At that point, they will be scheduling the oral defense.

And I, we're gonna share with you what that looks like.

Um, down the road, oral defense is a time of celebration.

It's one of the, it's one of the final things that you have to do in your dissertation journey.

And at your oral defense, you will, uh, it's something that you can invite your friends and your family to attend via Zoom or whatever platform your committee members are using, they can attend.

Um, they are respect, they're expected to have professional behavior and everything, but it's, even though it's a time of celebration, it's a time that you need to take very seriously because it is something that you do have to pass.

You have to pass your oral defense in order to, um, be able to go on to the next steps.

And the next steps are signatures on your dissertation.

So that's very exciting.

Okay, so, uh, we're gonna talk about presentation basics.

All right? So when you're giving your oral presentation, I'm gonna go over the guidelines.

We're gonna talk about setting the scene for your presentation and then rehearsing your presentation.

Okay? So presentation guidelines you will notice here, um, yeah, actually I'm gonna say what I was just gonna say for the, the next slide.

So if presentation guidelines, you wanna make sure that you're using a clear and simple background.

You can absolutely get creative with it, but your focus is on your words.

We need to see what you are talking about.

We don't wanna be distracted with background graphics and all that.

You wanna make sure that you have a title on each page.

We do have a template that you can use.

I will share with you where to get that in just a little bit of, um, bit, a little bit of time.

You wanna include page numbers on your slides.

You want to present bullets, but speak in sentences.

So your bulleted information on your slides is just what you need in order to remember what you were going to say about that particular thing.

So you're going to present bullets, but when you're speaking to your committee members and you're speaking to whoever is on the call with you, you're speaking in full sentences, then you're not reading your bullets, your research questions.

And if you did qualitative or quantitative, your hypotheses should be in full sentences.

You do not need to bullet those.

We do want those to be in full sentences.

And a good guideline is to follow the PowerPoint seven by seven rule.

So the seven by seven rule is that you have no more than seven bullets, and you have no more than seven words per bullet.

Okay? That's a really good guideline because as I said earlier, if you have more than seven words and you have more than seven bullets, you are going to be tempted to read your slides.

And, and reading your slides is not a good oral defense.

We want to hear you and your voice. Okay? So following that, that PowerPoint seven by seven is going to be a good, a good rule for you to follow.

So remember this slide that we just did, this slide does not follow that seven by seven rule, okay? This is just sentences.

And again, you will just be tempted to read those sentences for your oral defense.

A lot of times students come in pretty nervous because they understand the, the gravity that is this oral defense presentation.

But remember, this is your committee members, and hopefully you've been working with the same committee members for a while.

I know sometimes they get switched and you get new committee members at any point in your, in your time, but you've been working with your committee for a while, they're there to support you.

It is a nerve wracking situation.

And because of that, students are tempted to read their slides because you're, you're trying to calm your nerves.

And so we understand that and, and you sometimes do slip into that habit, but not having full sentences on your slides is going to help that.

Now, because you are presenting in a virtual environment, there's nothing stopping you from like taking a piece of paper.

And if I write my notes on this of what I want to say, I can put it right next to my camera.

Like if I hang it right here, you can't see it.

We're like, look, it, there's my piece of paper if I hang it right next to it.

So I'm reading off of this piece of paper right now, it looks like I'm looking at you, right? I'm not looking at you, I'm looking at my notes.

There's nothing wrong with having notes off to the side, but again, those notes should not be in full sentences.

It is very obvious when you get up there and you're reading.

So please don't think that you can just write out your entire oral defense and just get up there and read it.

Don't think that you can do that because that's, that's not a good presentation.

Okay? Alright, so this is the same exact slide.

So look, before, here's the slide that's wrong, that doesn't follow the seven by seven rule.

Here's the slide. That is correct. Okay? So this one, it's giving you all the same information, but it's using bullets instead.

So I'm going to show you bullets, but I'm going to speak in sentences.

So I will say the purpose of the oral defense is to demonstrate your competence in describing your study and what you did for your, what you did for your study.

It's going to be discussing the elements that you found interesting, that surprised you in your dissertation, and it's going to support your work in your dissertation.

The oral defense happens after QRF approval.

So you need to make sure that you have your, your chapters one through five finished and approved, and then you start working on your, um, your oral defense.

And it's also important to remember that this is a time of celebration.

Okay? You see what I'm doing? Right? I'm speaking in full sentences, even though the things that are up on the screen are just bulleted points.

Okay? You have to pass your oral defense in order to, um, in order to finish my, my screen with you guys on it is blocking my view of what's on my, there we go.

There we go. Much better. Okay? And, um, at your oral defense, a common question that we get is, when can I be called doctor? And typically it happens at your oral defense.

And so once you complete your oral defense, your committee members will discuss, which we'll talk about that in a moment, and they will come back.

And that's when if you pass your oral defense, oftentimes they will greet you with welcome back Dr. Baker, and that's your signal that you passed.

And, and everything is all good.

Um, we will talk about if you don't pass, what happens? Then we're gonna talk about all that, okay? Um, and I should say that it's not officially official, official official until you have signatures on your dissertation.

So, um, they're, depending on who you talk to, they might say like, oh, well you don't have your signatures yet.

You're not technically a doctor, but in our eyes, you completed all the tasks that you needed to do.

So we can start calling you a doctor there, okay? Setting the scene for your oral defense. Alright? So you wanna make sure that you're using good lighting.

We wanna be able to see you, it is on camera.

And so make sure that you are presenting as if it were a live presentation so you can stand up if that makes you more comfortable, um, comfort, you can sit up, but make sure that you're, you're still speaking to the room when you are talking to everyone.

You want to use professional dress and tone.

We don't want you in your, uh, pajamas.

We, you are giving a very important presentation.

So you need to dress and look the part, um, watch your tone.

We want you to be positive, um, a pleasing and non-distracting background.

And so just like an office space or, um, I know the local libraries by me, they let you rent out space because I'm a mom of four kids and it's never quiet in my house.

And so, uh, I have one at baseball and one at soccer right now.

So I'm down two kids, which is why it's quiet right now.

But you wanna make sure that you're free from distraction as much as possible and free of background noise.

I just completed an oral defense, um, a couple weeks ago, and the person had their bird in the room, which not a big deal, and that's not something that would stop you from passing your oral defense, but it was really distracting.

And it just, when I'm trying to listen to what this person was saying and the bird just kept chirping, just try to be in a quiet room.

We also do recognize that sometimes you don't have a quiet space.

And, um, I've, I've given important meetings from my closet.

I've given important meetings like sitting in the corner of the bathroom with just a wall behind me so that you can't tell that it's a bathroom.

I've done that before. And of course you don't want to do that, but if you are worried about the space and, and the area in which you are, reach out to your local libraries, they often will rent you a room for free.

It doesn't cost anything. Um, so that's, that's an option for you.

But with all that said, I don't want you to stress about that either.

If your kid walks into the room, that's completely fine.

If your dog starts barking, it's okay. It's not a big deal.

We just want you to try to minimize it as much as possible, but please don't feel like you have to be perfect.

At that time. I was working another defense and the student, I could tell how nervous the student was.

And at the, they were, they started to, to stumble over their words and everything.

And when it got, when they finished presenting and we got to the part where it was like, question and answer, the student said something along the lines of like, I was so thirsty and I needed a drink of water.

And I just, I I was so nervous. Please stop and drink water.

It's okay. This isn't like you are going to record this and you're going to publish it for other people to see or anything.

Uh, we are not expecting you to be perfect.

We just want you to try to minimize any distractions as much as possible.

Okay? Um, if you are having guests attend, oftentimes people will have their friends or their family members or their colleagues who want to just be there to celebrate and to hear about your, uh, presentation.

Sometimes the people you collected, um, data from, sometimes they like to hear your results.

And so anyone is welcome to attend your oral defense, but they must engage in professional behavior.

So it's up to you to communicate to them that they should also be, um, quiet.

They should be on mute.

They should probably be off camera for most of it as well.

Okay? All right.

Before I go on, I'm going to stop here to see if anybody has any questions.

Does anyone have questions? I, on my screen I lost where you guys were so I couldn't see you.

And then I feel like I'm talking to myself Questions about pre presenting, but I think you answered 'em when you were talking about the notes and Oh, great.

And all of that. So there were several thoughts related to that, which I think you've, you've addressed.

Okay, good. Yes, you absolutely can use cue cards, you can use, um, little things.

I, again, I would just, um, advise you not to put full sentences on those.

Um, the only full sentences that we do want to hear and we do want to see are your actual research questions.

Okay. Anything else, please? Um, I have a question.

Yes, go ahead.

So, um, the information that's conveyed in our or defense is the research questions and the findings that the day that we have collected, things of that nature.

W is that okay? Does that fall? Could you, is she breaking up for anybody else or is that just me? Yeah. Uh, yes, I put, she was breaking up for me as well.

Okay. Could you repeat your question again? I was, lemme put it in the chat. Okay, Perfect.

Okay, I'm gonna, um, go on.

But Stephanie, I will come back to your question, whatever your question was.

Alright. Um, back here, I have a quick question or maybe like a clarification.

Yep. So basically while presenting the, um, the PowerPoint to do it as if you would, um, a meeting like, um, yes.

Okay, perfect. Okay, that makes sense.

Yep. Yep. You're doing it as like, pretend like you're sitting in the room with these people and that's how you should be giving your presentation.

I know like for when I gave my own oral defense, I was just more comfortable like standing up as if I was, my, my background is in education and so like, I regularly give lectures to rooms of 500 students.

And so I was just more comfortable standing up and not saying that you have to, like, you absolutely can be sitting down at your desk, but you just wanna make sure that you're, um, you're just speaking as if you're talking to a person sitting right next to you.

I will say that most of the oral defenses, like, like right now I have have on a, I have a slide on my computer right now where I can't see the slide of who's talking to me.

And for me, that's really distracting.

Like I'm, I'm actually like minimizing it right now so that I can see you who I'm speaking to.

And sometimes that gets me very distracted when I, especially when you're giving like a 20 minute long presentation and you're just talking, talking, talking, talking.

Um, I will say that most oral defenses that I have been a part of your committee members shut the camera off.

So you are just focusing on your presentation.

That's not saying that they definitely will, 'cause that's not a rule or anything, but a lot of times, um, everyone's camera is off.

So you're, you are kind of just sharing your presentation and during your presentation, your committee members are not going to

interrupt you.

They're, they're just, you start your presentation, you go from start to end and we don't stop what you're saying of, of course, like if you need something, like we will acknowledge that you're talking to us, but, um, but it's usually start to end.

We're typically off camera and everything Dr. Baker. Yeah. So the question, um, that Ms. Harris had is can we put our data tables in the presentation as well or should we make them, uh, like, um, present that data in bullets? Yeah, you absolutely can put data tables.

The more visual that you can get, the better.

Uh, if you have a really good, uh, if you have a really good data table that represents, um, something good data that you collected, absolutely share that because that's a visual.

We don't want you to just show the table and move on.

We want you to show the table and tell us what we're looking at and then move on.

Um, Rhonda, the, the actual presentation part of you giving your oral defense, that part is only about 20 minutes, sometimes 30, like 20 to 30 minutes.

Um, that the part that you are starting and ending, you describing to us what your oral, what your presentation, what your dissertation topic was all about.

That part is 20 minutes.

And then after that it's opened up for q and a, which I might be getting ahead of myself, but that's okay.

It's opened up for q and a from all your committee members and, um, anyone else who wants to ask questions of you.

And this is, it's an oral defense, like you are defending the choices that you made.

And so some typical questions might be, well, why did you decide to use case study? Or what did you think of? Like, how would your data be different if you would've collected data from this person or that person? Or they might say, if you were to start this all over again, what changes would you have made? Like those sort of things where you are defending the choices that you made.

And so that part of it is typically about 15, 20 minutes as well.

And then, um, and then you are dismissed from the meeting.

You leave, you, you just close out your zoom or your teams or whatever, and your committee members confer all of your, um, family members and friends have to log off at that point.

Um, they, they leave the meeting and then every committee member does it a little bit differently.

I usually like text my people and I say, okay, log back in now whenever we're done, and then we'll have you log back in.

Sometimes they'll ask you just to physically leave the room.

It's all different about who does things a little bit differently.

I think I go into more detail on that a little bit too.

Um, okay, good descriptive case study.

Case study is a very popular one.

Lots of people do case studies. Good.

Okay, so rehearsing, rehearsing your presentation.

I cannot stress this enough to you.

We want, you should be practicing with a friend, a family member.

Uh, if you don't have that access or you don't wanna bore anyone with your dissertation, um, then record yourself.

Record yourself and analyze it and really think about how you can improve, how you can make it be better.

Double check to make sure that you didn't read your slides.

Really try to limit your use of fillers, like, um, and, and little things like that.

And we are all guilty of that. I catch myself doing it.

I've even caught myself several times in this presentation saying, um, and it happens to the best of us, but as long as it's not an overuse of the word, um, time yourself, you want it to be approximately 20 minutes there.

It's not a hard stop at 20 unless your committee members tell you differently.

It's not a hard stop at 20.

'cause like I said, every committee member's a little bit different.

Some of them might want you to have a hard stop at 20.

Uh, but for me, in the ones that I've done, they're anywhere from 18 minutes, I would say to 30 minutes, uh, for the presentation.

Okay? But when you are practicing, set a literal timer.

Try to go through from beginning to end so that you have a good idea of how long it's taking you.

If you notice that, oh my gosh, like I that was 40 minutes, then you need to go back and you need to figure out where you can cut some information out or where you can summarize a little bit more.

Instead of going into such great detail.

I'm gonna show you in a little bit which slides you should be like focusing the most of your time on too.

Okay. Any questions before I go on? Okay, so next we're gonna talk about the actual content, the content that goes into your oral defense.

All right, so you might want to take a picture of this with your cell phone or something, but this is the basic outline of this.

We do have, like I said earlier, we have a PowerPoint template for you that you are free to use.

You can alter it as you see fit, but these are the main areas where you're going to focus your, your presentation.

The yellow parts on this, the yellow sections on this slide are the ones that you should be spending the most time on.

So you'll see your problem, your, your intro, your problem, your purpose.

You're giving us a very brief description of why you decided to do this.

So in something like your introduction, feel free to get personal with us.

Like what was the reason that drove your decision to complete the study in the first place? You still do have to be cautious about bias.

We don't want to know your opinion, we don't want to know what you were hoping would happen, but where did this stem from? Where did it come from? And so give us your brief introduction, setting the stage for your committee members so that we can understand like where this came from, and then give us your problem and your purpose.

It's okay if those are full sentences too, that's not a big deal.

Like the one sentence problem, not the whole problem section.

I don't want that. But like, the one sentence that justifies your problem would be, okay, your one sentence that is your purpose, not the whole section, just the one sentence that tells us your purpose.

That would be okay for a full sentence.

And then research questions and hypotheses.

Those should, they absolutely should be word for word.

Don't try and summarize those.

And then your significance, you're gonna be very brief with that.

Your literature review, your heart and soul, you poured into those 30 to 50 pages, you're gonna be very brief in your oral defense.

We don't need to know all of the background.

This would be a perfect example of the seven by seven rule.

Have seven bullets.

What were the seven main things that you covered in your literature review and finish that slide in 30 seconds.

Maybe, maybe a little bit longer, maybe a minute 30.

Um, but that part is very brief.

Your theoretical or your conceptual framework, depending on if you used quant or qual, uh, that part should be very brief.

Where, what did you use as the basis for your research? Um, the, the framework that you chose and then method you should go a little bit more into depth on the method.

I'm gonna show you on the next slide what that will look like.

And then you wanna talk about ethical considerations.

It's coming up in a future slide as well.

The results page we're gonna talk about in detail in a future slide.

And then implications and recommendations.

This is a big one. So all throughout your entire dissertation, you are not to share your opinion with us.

We shouldn't know your opinion.

If we know your opinion based on something that you've written or something that you've said, you've shown us your bias and you're not supposed to have biases as much as we can control it within our study.

We all have biases, we all have them, but we need to not let them show as much as possible.

And so the impli the implications and recommendations section, this part's exciting.

This is you do get to tell us what you think.

So now that you collected all this data, now that you've analyzed your data, you have your themes or you have your results or your statistics or whatever you went through the literature review, you know, the basis of what backed up your study.

Now you can share your opinion with us about what did after you went through this whole entire process, what implications are there, what changes are there going to be in certain industries? Who needs to be looking at your research? Who needs to care about your research? And then your recommendations.

You get to share with us what are next steps, what what do you think should happen as a result of all the hard work that you put in? Alright? And then you want a slide that's going to compare and contrast with your conceptual theoretical, uh, framework and previous studies and relating back to your literature review.

So you want to compare and contrast the results that you got to the conceptual or theoretical framework and compare the results that you got to the current literature that's out there in previous studies that were out there.

And then we want you to end with a strong take home message for, for your study.

Okay? All right.

I'm gonna go over each one of those ones that said next slide in detail.

So the methodology section.

So this one you probably will use a couple of slides on it.

You don't feel like, do not feel like you need to cram it all onto one slide.

So 2, 3, 4, maybe even five slides on your methodology.

You're not going into huge amount of depth of depth, but you do want to spend more time on this section.

So you're gonna tell us your, your method and why you chose that method.

We are not here to pull a gotcha.

We're not trying to get you in your dissertation.

We do expect that you're an expert on your design.

We don't, we, we expect you to be knowledgeable of the other designs and know what a couple of them are.

We do not expect you to know the ins and outs of all of those because you are novice researchers.

That's what a dissertation is all about, is teaching you the process of how to conduct research after your dissertation is done.

Then you can go become an expert on a different design.

And guess what the great news, you will never have to write another 150, 200 page dissertation.

Again, anytime you conduct research beyond your dissertation in the future, all you have to do is like a 12 page journal article.

Sometimes a 20 page journal article, sometimes even a two page journal article.

So your days of 150 page articles, once you're done, um, then you can start becoming a more experienced researcher and learn about some of the other designs too.

Your, um, the method in your justification.

So why you picked quant or qual, and then your design and why you picked that particular design.

You're gonna talk about your sampling method and your justification.

How did you get your people and why, why did you go about it in the way that you did? You will give us your sample size, your population, and sample demographics.

That's a great opportunity to show a real quick chart.

You're not gonna spend a whole lot of time on it.

But if there's anything interesting that came out of it, like, Hey, I noticed that everybody in the group was all in their fifties, or I noticed that everyone in the, even though that's not what I was looking for, that that's just how it happened.

You know, just little things that you may have noticed about your demographics, but otherwise you're not gonna spend much time on it at all.

And then you're gonna talk about your study instruments.

We wanna hear about the validity and reliability if it was a quantitative instrument.

And so if you used a survey or a a, an instrument that was, um, that you had permission to use from someone else, someone else created it, you should be able to look up the validity and reliability information on that, on that study instrument.

But if you created it yourself, then you have to go through validity reliability tests and you'll need to explain that and explain what you did in your study.

That's only for quant.

Um, we are looking for alignment between your instrumentation and your research questions.

When you were writing those of you who have, who have gotten to chapter three already and beyond, uh, in chapter three, you needed an instrumentation table in the instrumentation section where you have research questions, usually like on the left.

And then the interview questions that aligned with your research question written all together.

It's a good idea to include that chart in there.

And that's okay if you have sentences too.

You're not going to read us those interview questions.

You're just going to talk to us about how, here were my research questions, here were the interview questions.

And I did work to see that they were aligned together.

You can also talk about, um, for qualitative, you can talk about, um, the field tests that I, that I completed during my studies, uh, resulted in X, Y, Z.

And I made those changes before I launched my real instruments out to real participants.

Um, same thing with quantitative that you, you launched your pilot study with three people that were similar to the sample that you were looking for and you learned X, Y, z, you made changes to your study, whatever.

You can include all that information too.

And then you want any assumptions and limitations.

Um, those of you who have not collected your data yet, you might, there might be assumptions and limitations.

You know how you had to write about them in chapters one and three after you conducted your study.

You might realize like, oh hey, like that, that was a big assumption or that was a big limitation.

Like for example, my own study, um, it had to do with higher education and the fact that most higher education institutions don't require their faculty members to have teaching experience, but rather they just have to have the degree in which they're looking to teach.

And so that comes with some challenges because you have all these really smart people who are not trained in how to deliver content to other people.

And that's what mine was all about.

And so I surveyed faculty members, I surveyed students.

And one of the things I was looking to see if having a trained teacher impacted any other areas like student satisfaction or attendance or grades and things like that.

And one of the limitations that I didn't realize happened was that for the attendance question, um, I asked students like, how many times have you been absent during the semester or whatever? And this was just like a traditional university.

And the, the results came back all over the place.

And upon further digging, I realized that some of the schools sent out my survey right when I sent it to them.

And other schools waited until like basically the end of the semester before I send it to them.

So that whole part of my study, I basically had to throw out.

I mean, you keep it in and you report on it, but when one person is reporting zero absences in week five, it's different from somebody who's reporting zero absences when they weren't given the, the survey until week 15.

So like something like that, it became a limitation in my study.

So you might discover some of those through the actual, like there's some that you predicted when you wrote your chapters one and three, but then there's some that you will discover along the road too.

Okay? So ethical considerations, this is gonna be a whole other slide.

Be sure to add a slide.

And just briefly, this isn't anything that you're spending a whole lot of time on, but how you recruited your participants.

You're gonna talk, you're gonna make sure that you share with us that you used informed consent.

Um, you can talk very briefly about how you did it.

If it was on a, uh, like a survey tool, a part of the embedded survey, or if you handed them a piece of paper, um, talk about participants' rights.

And then I was getting ahead of myself.

Here's where you'll talk about your pilot study or your field tests and any changes that you made as a result of one of those.

And then make sure throughout your study that you specify that no data was collected without IRB approval too.

Make sure that you slide that little tidbit in at some point.

Okay? Okay.

Results, your results is the most important part, most important part, arguably of your entire dissertation and your entire oral defense.

You went through all this trouble. What happened? That's what we wanna hear.

That's where the bulk of your talking should come in.

We want to hear the answer to your research questions.

That's, that's the whole reason why we're here.

What is the answer? So make sure that you go back to those research questions and you give us the answer based on the information that you collected.

Here is where you might wanna include some tables, graphs, visuals that might be helpful for your, um, for, for your viewers.

A lot of times if you're doing qualitative studies, um, students will create like a nice looking visual that have all their themes on it.

Maybe they'll put like some clip art to help us like connect to your themes.

Like not necessary, not required, but those visuals are going to help drive your point home.

And I would rather hear my students describe a visual than I would have hear them read something.

Okay? All right. Any questions before I move on? 'cause we're gonna go on to what to expect that day.

Dr. Baker, there's a couple of questions in the chat.

Okay. Um, Okay, is there, the one question is, is there a minimum, um, how much less than 20 minutes is acceptable And also about how many slides total approximately? Uh, so I would say get as close to 20 minutes as you can.

Anything that's under like 17 or 18, that just that fact alone would tell me that you didn't cover everything that you were supposed to cover.

'cause I don't know that it is possible to cover everything that you're required to cover in less than 17, 18 minutes.

Um, so get as close to 20 as you can.

Um, how many, the number of slides, it really just depends on your study and, and how you space things out.

We do have a template and that template will absolutely share with you, like the minimum because anything that we have on that template, you're gonna expand on it and you don't wanna like cram stuff into slides.

You feel free to use more slides.

So there's not really like a minimum either.

Is there a library of slide decks that were positively reviewed? We do have some samples I'm gonna share with you.

I'm gonna share those with you in just a couple minutes.

Um, how many slides? The implementation, the implications and recommendations, just a couple bullets.

So implications, I would have four or five bullets and then recommendations, four or five bullets.

You're basically taking, 'cause you had to write implications in recommendations in your chapter five.

You're basically just taking those and putting those into your, into your work.

Um, can we say most of the information comes from the lit review in chapter three? Um, Rhonda, I'm not sure what you mean by that.

Do you want to expand a little bit? Oh, you're on mute.

Oops. Some technical difficulties.

Try, do you try holding your space bar on your computer? Sometimes a space bar? No. Okay.

Type it out in the chat and I'll come back to it in a couple minutes.

Okay. Um, let's see.

Um, slide. Alright, so what to expect the day.

I went over some of this already.

So, um, have your presentation materials ready.

Be sure that you are comfortable with the technology.

So practice using it.

Um, log in five to 10 minutes prior to your start time.

Give your chair ad, um, admin or host rights on the presentation.

If your chair was, wasn't the person to schedule the oral defense.

Um, because they are going to need to, we don't want when you, when it comes time for you to leave the meeting for them to discuss, we don't want you leaving as the host and then it closes everybody else out.

So make sure that you give them host rights and then the chair's going to be recording your defense.

Your, the recording of your defense will go into your team's folder so that we can have record of it and all that.

Um, the test out your technology, because technology, that's an added stress you're already gonna be worried about this day.

Um, if things go wrong, please don't, don't let that ruin your oral defense.

It's okay. Like your committee members are very understanding people and if you're having some technology issues, it's fine.

Don't let that, um, give you hiccups, but it will go better for you if you practice it.

So don't, don't come and be like, how do I come off? How do I share my slide? Know how to do that before you come. Okay? So the order of events, there will be introductions.

You'll give your 20 ish minute presentation and then it's open question and answer.

Your committee members usually just go round robin and they ask you a couple of questions, usually like two questions each, three questions each.

Um, and it's really just you, you are literally defending what you did.

Um, again, it, there's, there should not be any gotcha type questions.

Like, we're not looking to catch you in a mistake.

We're not looking to, um, try to trip you up or anything.

We're truly just wanting to hear that you stand by your research and you stand by what you did.

Then there will be committee deliberation.

The student is either in a breakout room or you completely log off and we'll call you back.

It kind of just depends on who your committee members are.

Then there's the committee consensus.

They will share with you if you are, um, if you have passed your oral defense or not.

And then there's the final wrap up.

If you do pass your defense, there will be lots, have paper there and a pen because you're gonna be, if they, if they tell you that you're doctor number one, I cry at every single one of them.

So you, if you're on a committee, on a committee with people like me, I will be bawling my eyes out while we're trying to go through all these final wrap up things.

And so you probably will be very emotional too.

Have a piece of paper sitting there because your committee member is going to tell you, you need to email dissertation services.

This, you need to contact this person.

You need to do this, have paper and pen ready for you so that you can think clearly.

And if you forget and if you're too overwhelmed with emotion and all that, it's okay, you can always just email your chair after it happens.

Anyways. Um, your, any guests will be required to log off after the open question and answer so they can stay there for the question and answer.

Um, it's up to your committee members if they will allow your guests to ask questions as well.

But then after the question and answer, everybody has to log off.

So when you log back on to hear if you are a doctor or not, it's just you and your committee members there at that time.

Okay? Um, all right, after the defense, if you, if you are approved or approved with changes, first huge celebrations, tears from Dr. Baker, um, and it's just a huge overwhelming emotional moment in your life that you're never gonna forget.

You're never going to forget that moment.

You're never gonna forget the first person to ever call you doctor.

It's just very exciting.

But after that, you, you may still have revisions.

You guys should know by now that the revisions in the edits are like never ending, right? And so your committee members might say, like, if they notice a mistake when you're giving your presentation, or if they notice something that just doesn't seem right, they're gonna

tell you like, Hey, you gotta go back and you have to fix this part or this part in your actual written copy of your dissertation.

Sometimes they'll have you fix things on your oral defense presentation as well.

So it could be revisions to your actual dissertation or your oral defense.

And once you fix those revisions, you will submit your final copy to TK 20.

Just like all the steps before, your committee members will evaluate it using the rubric, and then students will submit your final dissertation copy to dissertation services because then they put it in the system.

They start working on your signature page.

Your signature page is routed to your entire committee to Dr.

LERs. And then it's all put back into one beautiful piece for you to keep.

I would highly recommend printing a professional copy.

I have mine, uh, I don't know if you can see Mine's up there.

Um, it's in a nice, like hard copy bound book with gold lettering.

And just every time I look at it, it makes me happy.

So I would recommend doing that, um, after you finish, I have no idea who does it.

So, um, you might have to do some research on your own.

My school did it for us, but I don't, that's not done.

All right. So then after the defense, um, if you are not approved, so first, hopefully you know this by now, deep breaths.

You're going to just take the feedback that you are being given.

You are going to breathe, you are going to just take a moment and everything's gonna be fine.

But if you're not approved, then you're going to discuss the changes that are needed.

You will discuss with your committee members.

Um, maybe it is changes to your actual dissertation, but it could be changes to your defense, the oral defense presentation.

Maybe your dissertation was fine, but your defense just didn't go that great, or you stumbled over your answers or something like that.

Um, they will tell you about all the changes that you need to make.

You're gonna make your changes after the defense is over, and then you will reschedule your oral defense.

Okay? At that point, you need to kind of pick up the ball and ask questions when you're not sure if there's something that you're not sure about, uh, if you still are uncertain, if you have questions, you need to reach out to your committee members and ask them.

Um, something I forgot to mention earlier too is when you're preparing for oral defense, every chair does it a little bit differently.

Some chairs will have you call in with them live and do a practice defense with you.

Some of them will just talk more in general about the defense with you.

Some of them might tell you like, here's a presentation.

Go watch this presentation or come attend this workshop, um, here, so everyone does it a little bit differently.

But please don't hesitate to reach out to your chair, reach out to your committee members and ask them like, is this okay? Can you look over my PowerPoint? Everyone does it a little bit differently, but ask, just ask them if, if they want to meet with you to go over it, if they want to look at your PowerPoint ahead of time, all that.

Okay? All right.

I'm gonna be sharing with you a couple of things here.

So, CDS, central resources, um, CDs Central got a, a facelift, and you can still see my slide, my screen, right? It wasn't just on the PowerPoint.

Yes, we can still see your screen.

It's okay on CVS Central Index.

Fantastic. Okay. So this is the new CVS Central.

Over here on the left side panel, you're gonna see all these like pull down tabs.

The one that we're specifically going to look at right now is dissertation journey.

You're gonna click on Phases and Dissertation committee.

So if you're, actually, I'm already on that slide.

If you scroll down just a little bit, you're gonna see, since we're talking specifically about World Defense, you're gonna click on phase five.

And here's all the different tools for success for you.

There is, um, just additional resources.

A sample defense template is right here.

Uh, dissertation Oral Defense Course.

It's just like a self-guided course that you can go through to kind of just prepare you for this.

And then, um, recommendations for phase five.

Just gives you some more information about it, which may be helpful for you.

Might wanna read that later. And then over here on student resources, if you pull that down, um, if you need library help, whatever dissertation services, the one I'm specifically talking about is writing library and research.

So you tell us what you need help with.

Um, I'm looking for help.

Something related to my dissertation.

So I'm gonna click on dissertation, and then I pull this down.

See dissertation resources.

You can see here, there is the, there's so many here for you.

There's, um, let's see.

There's all these dissertation chapter resources, but here, this one specifically, this dissertation, chapter five and Oral Defense resources is right here.

I'll show you what that looks like in a second.

Here's the dissertation oral defense module.

It's like a self-guided thing.

And then a sample defense template is right here is another one.

But I want to specifically show you this Chapter five resources.

So here it talks about what you can do after the oral defense, things like getting published and blogs and white papers, and creating a scholarly presentation and all that.

But if you scroll down to oral defense, um, this presentation that I just gave tonight, there's a recording of it right there if you wanna go back and not the one tonight, but this was, um, something I reported earlier.

Here's that same tutorial course.

Here's the rubric that you are, you, that is used to determine if you're passing or not.

Here is, um, um, a coffee chat, which are little like informal presentations that happen on Saturdays, and it's just kind of low key, what to expect during oral defense.

And then here is a sample.

Um, you can see an actual defense if you click on that and what, what it would look like.

You'll see that one's 47 minutes long.

Here's an oral defense template. This is a PowerPoint.

You are by no means bound to using this, but it's an option for you.

And so there's lots of resources there for you. Okay? Um, and then, oh, here, it's phase five, and then the chapter resources I just went over.

I'm gonna put the direct link.

I'm not positive if this is gonna work, but I'm gonna put this direct link in the chats.

I lost my chat again, I have so many tabs open.

I lost you all. Oh, there you are. Okay.

Hopefully that direct link works.

But if the direct link does not work, um, go through the student resource tab on CDS Central.

Okay? Um, all right.

I'm gonna go back to look to see other questions that I may have missed.

All right. It seems that a good amount of information comes from the literature review research.

However, chapter three will add the information after we collect and interpret data we need for being strong in the oral defense.

Am I in the ballpark of understanding? Yes.

Your, your oral defense really is like all five chapters.

Um, so your literature review is going to be a very small part of your oral defense, actually.

Um, your chapters one and three where you told us what you were planning to do, a good chunk of it will come from that.

But then probably the biggest chunk comes from your chapters four and five, where you're analyzing and reporting your data.

All right? Um, in chapter three, you write about how you planned it.

Oh, you guys were just answering questions. Thank you.

All right, let me go back to this.

Um, I'm gonna show you, I'm gonna, I, the, I showed you whether you can find the links to the sample oral defense, so you can check that out.

Um, something that I would like you to, oops, to always make sure that you're checking our upcoming events, especially those of you who are near the end.

You are not going to be shut off from our events because our research hub with Dr.

Uh Smith and Dr.

Mansura, uh, Caprice, they host so many great events that are available to you as current students and as alumni.

And so always make sure that you are checking the events page to see what's coming up.

I would recommend taking out your cell phone and setting a calendar reminder for the first of every month just to kind of see what's coming up, um, joining the research methodology group.

If you're not in that yet, make sure that you join that group too, 'cause Dr. Smith does a wonderful job of posting all of the upcoming events in the, in that group as well.

And if you're not part of the Facebook group, join the Facebook group too, 'cause we share in the, in the Facebook group as well.

All right? Uh, okay.

Any questions before we wrap things up? Is there anything that you need more clarity? Thank you so much, Dr. Baker.

While they're thinking, I just wanted to let everyone know that the link to the teams is in the chat.

It's a really long, crazy looking link, but if you click that, it'll get you to the team so that if you're not a member, you can, um, you'll be able to request membership and I'll, and I'll let you in.

So, um, that's in the chat.

And also please remember to complete the survey where Uh, for this webinar is an amazing webinar, is always, um, present such great information and really give a roadmap to how to present the dissertation.

Um, so tell us about it. Tell us what you like.

Tell us if you need, uh, what you might want in addition, what other webinars you might want or, um, how we might be able to provide you with additional information to make your process smoother.

Um, I will get the link to the Facebook group too.

I'm pretty sure it's just University of Phoenix.

Yeah, college of Doctoral Studies.

Let me look too.

We call one of my friends has a fantastic looking cake.

You can all see. Okay, so invite, will it just let me do a link.

It's, uh, university of Phoenix College of Doctoral Studies.

Yep. Is the page, If you're not part of it yet.

It's such a good, positive, supportive community.

So definitely. And there are, um, current students.

There are, uh, faculty, some faculty are in there, some leadership is in there.

So it's just a really good, and for the most part it's a positive, supportive, encouraging place to be.

Put that link in the chat.

That link should let you join it too.

Even if you're not on Facebook, it might be worth joining just for that because it's a really good group.

Okay. Any other questions? One last thing, um, doctor, there's a recording of this, of a previous version that Dr. Baker conducted and the resources that she shared.

Um, but this recording will also be on, uh, in the, uh, research methodology group in a couple of days.

So it'll be posted there. And I think you did this present.

This is the second time you've done it this year.

So there might be some information that's there.

It's either beginning of last year or the beginning of this year that you did it as well.

Yep.

Alright, everyone, any other questions? Okay. You've got them speechless.

Alright, well if you think of anything, um, please just reach out to your committee members.

Um, you can always get ahold of me, um, if you need help too, I'm happy to, um, to answer any questions.

Thank you all so much. Have a great night.