

Week 10 Preparing for Thesis Defense

Preparing Preliminary Review Materials and Oral Practice

1. Lecture Overview

- 1) One of the final stages of thesis writing is preparing for the thesis defense.
 - 2) At this stage, students must clearly and persuasively present their research to the committee.
 - 3) This lecture covers:
 - (1) Preparing preliminary review materials
 - (2) Structuring a thesis presentation
 - (3) Practicing oral defense and responding to questions
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2. Learning Objectives

- 1) By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:
 - 2) Prepare organized presentation materials for thesis defense.
 - 3) Clearly explain their research findings.
 - 4) Respond to committee questions academically and logically.
 - 5) Improve their oral presentation skills.
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3. Lecture Content

- 1) Preparing Preliminary Review Materials
 - (1) Thesis defense presentation materials should summarize the key elements of the research concisely.
 - (2) Typical structure includes:
 - (3) Research title
 - (4) Research purpose
 - (5) Research questions
 - (6) Research methodology
 - (7) Key findings
 - (8) Academic contribution
 - (9) Conclusion and implications
 - (10) Usually, the presentation consists of 10–15 slides.
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2) Effective Structure of a Thesis Presentation

The presentation should follow this structure:

(1) Introduction

- ① Research background
- ② Significance of the study

(2) Research Problem

- ① Research questions
- ② Hypothesis

(3) Methodology

- ① Research participants or data
- ② Data collection methods
- ③ Analytical approach

(4) Findings

- ① Major discoveries
- ② Analytical results

(5) Conclusion

- ① Significance of the research
- ② Academic contributions
- ③ Directions for future research

3) Practicing Oral Presentation

Important elements of an oral presentation include:

- (1) Clear pronunciation
- (2) Logical explanation
- (3) Time management
- (4) Confident delivery
- (5) A typical thesis defense presentation lasts 15–20 minutes.

4) Responding to Committee Questions

Committee questions typically focus on:

- (1) Validity of research methodology
- (2) Interpretation of findings
- (3) Differences from previous studies
- (4) Limitations of the study

5) When responding:

- (1) Listen carefully
- (2) Identify the core of the question
- (3) Provide a logical and concise answer

4. Practice Activities

Students will complete the following:

- 1) Prepare thesis presentation slides
- 2) Practice a 10–15 minute presentation

- 3) Conduct mock thesis defense with peers
 - 4) Practice answering questions
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5. Assignment

Submit the following:

- 1) Thesis defense presentation slides
 - 2) A 15-minute presentation script
 - 3) Five anticipated questions with answers
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6. References

- 1) Booth, Colomb & Williams, The Craft of Research
- 2) Turabian, A Manual for Writers
- 3) Creswell, Research Design