

Eighth lesson: How to do great academic presentation?

To do great master thesis presentation you need to know two steps; the first one is about general tips and the second thing is talking about the content of your master thesis presentation.

General tips:

How to prepare for a thesis defense quick guide¹

1. Check with your department about requirements and timing.
2. Re-read your thesis.
3. Anticipate questions and prepare for them.
4. Create a back-up plan to deal with technology hiccups.
5. Plan de-stressing activities both before, and after, your defense.

Content of thesis presentation

1. Properly structure your slide deck

Every master thesis defense presentation is unique, but most effective slide decks will follow a similar structure, including:

- **Title** - Just like a research paper, your thesis presentation must include a title slide. This should include the same information as any other title page: the title, your name, your academic institution, course name and the name of the academic advisor to your thesis or dissertation. That doesn't mean your title slide needs to look like the start of any other Frankendeck. Instead, add your text atop a relative image, and adjust the brightness to ensure your text pops.
- **Introduction** - Your thesis presentation should also include an introduction slide, which details the topic of your thesis, the question your

¹ <https://paperpile.com/g/thesis-defense/>

research will seek to answer and any additional objectives to your research, as well as the answer or solution you will be defending.

- **Literature review** - Following your thesis introduction, design one or more slides that review the literature you researched. This shouldn't be a full bibliography (although that should be included in the accompanying written account of your research), but instead, the slides should list your most relevant research sources. If the information is featured on a slide, make sure you include its source.
- **Methodology** - Your thesis presentation slide deck should also include a slide (or slides) detailing the methodology of your research and argument. Here you want to describe the type of study— whether it's quantitative, qualitative or a combination of the two, as well as an explanation of why you chose the method or methods you used. If you conducted original research, you will want to detail the study population, sampling methods and other details pertinent to your studies, while you'll also want to detail how you analyzed your data.
- **Results** - No thesis presentation slide deck is complete without dedicating slides to illustrate the results of your research. Be sure to include a description of any data you collected through your research, as well as the results of your analysis of the data. What were your most significant findings?
- **Discussion** - How do the results of your research support your overall thesis argument? Be sure to include slides that discuss your overall findings and how they relate to your original question.

- **Conclusion** - Concluding slides should restate your original research questions, represent the results of your research, suggest future research and make any final recommendations.
- **Ending slide** – Close your thesis presentation with a concluding slide that offers an interesting quote or trivia that makes your audience further ponder your topic, a GIF or animation that recaptures the audience's attention or even a hypothetical question that opens additional discussion from the academic panel. This is your opportunity to make your presentation memorable.²

Homework:

Try to make a presentation on your master's topic.

² <https://www.beautiful.ai/blog/how-to-pull-off-your-thesis-defense-with-a-great-presentation>