

Sample Oral Defense Questions

Here are some examples of the types of questions your teacher might ask you during your oral defense. These are *examples only*; your teacher may ask you different questions, but there will still be one question that relates to each of the following two categories.

1. Reflection on Research Process

- › What information did you need before you began your research, and how did that information shape your research? Be specific: include context, history, data, facts.
- › What evidence did you gather that you didn't use? Why did you choose not to use it? Be specific: include context, history, data, facts.
- › How valid and reliable are the sources you used? How do you know? Which sources didn't work? Be specific: cite articles, name publications & authors' backgrounds.
- › How did you select the strategies you used to gather information or conduct research? Were they effective? Include journalistic source search and complement that with peer reviewed academic journals.
- › How did your research question evolve as you moved through the research process? Did your research go in a different direction than you originally planned/hypothesized? Be specific: explain where you thought you would go and build on how that changed and became more specific.
- › What information did you need that you weren't able to find or locate? How did you go about trying to find that information? Be specific: include context, history, data, facts, missing perspectives.
- › How did you handle the differing perspectives in order to reach a conclusion? Be specific: did you compare, contrast, complement.

2. Extending argumentation through effective questioning and inquiry

- › What additional questions emerged from your research? Why are these questions important?
- › What advice would you have for other researchers who consider this topic?
- › What might be the real-world implications or consequences (influence on others' behaviors or decision-making processes) of your findings? What are the implications to your community?
- › If you had more time, what additional research would you conduct related to this issue?
- › Explain the level of certainty you have about your conclusion, solution, or recommendation.
- › How does your conclusion respond to any of the other research or sources you examined?
- › How did you use the conclusions and questions of others to advance your own research?