

Instructions for Master's Thesis Defense

All Master's students are required to present a public talk based on their research conducted as a Master's student prior to graduation. The research talk will be used by the faculty to assign your grade for CHM 632. The literature presentation and thesis defense are not to be presented during the same semester. Please see Dr. Day (S 479, x7054, day17@marshall.edu) for more information on the presentation schedule.

The information here is the same as for your literature presentation with the following differences.

- 1) Because you and your advisor are intimately knowledgeable about your thesis topic, you will naturally use jargon that simplifies your conversations. The rest of the audience won't know it. Be sure to use as little jargon as possible in your talk. When you must use it, be sure to define it clearly and if you must go an extended period of time between uses, redefine it quickly at the later time.
- 2) In your introduction be sure to discuss the importance of your work. That is, what is the motivation behind performing the research?
- 3) Discuss important experimental aspects of your project, but avoid excessive detail. (i.e. For spectroscopy all your audience needs to know is that your IR spectrum was obtained in dichloromethane solvent. It doesn't need to know how you prepared the sample. Likewise, knowledge of the concentrations you use is dependent on the nature of your project. Consult with your advisor as to which details are important for the audience to understand what you've done and which are superfluous.)
- 4) You don't necessarily need to present all of your results in your talk. Select only those that contribute meaningfully to the story you are trying to tell.