

CPR FAQ

Congratulations! If you are reading this document it means that you are one step closer from obtaining your master's degree! This is a huge milestone and I hope that you are excited to present your project on which you have worked so hard!

If you're not at that step yet, and that you're just reading to get mentally prepared for what's to come, that's okay too! I love that you are being proactive!



Here's what I will cover in this document:

1. To prep a few weeks before
 - a. Submit your portfolio to Valerie Batta ywbatta@ncsu.edu
 - b. PowerPoint
 - c. Consult your committee members
 - d. Relax
2. On the day of the CPR
 - a. Attire
 - b. Check your surroundings
 - c. Your presentation and Q&A
3. After the CPR

- a. Decisions and forms

1. Before the CPR

- a. Submit your portfolio to Valerie Batta vwbatta@ncsu.edu

Your portfolio is your best paper you have written in French during your SECOND year of your Masters degree. In writing this email, please CC me.

- b. Submit your CP to me and your committee members using the ETD

Once you and I agree that your CP is in good shape, I will want to quickly check your CP for formatting and make sure it is good to go to be sent to your committee members. Do use the ETD (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) template provided to you on this template from The Graduate School at NCSU. I recommend sending your CP to your chair at least three weeks prior to the CPR and to your committee members, 10 days to a week before your CPR.

- c. PowerPoint

Do prepare a PowerPoint for your presentation. You will have 10 minutes at most to present your CP. I advise you to tell us about how you came to this project, what your "problématique" is, what your objects are (books, movies, archives, a mix of all of it?) , what conclusions you have drawn from this. Remember to not spend too much time on the description of your project and **do not go over your 10 minutes!** We are going to discuss your project with your committee member and we want to have plenty of time to discuss your project.

- d. Consult your committee members

I would advise you to send your full M.A. CPR defense draft to your committee members at least a week to two weeks prior to your defense. Once you have done so and depending on the amount of time you have left, you may want to reach out to them and check in to ask them if they have any questions for you at this point of their reading. I think it is always helpful to get their feedback prior to the defense so you can better prepare your answers during your defense.

- e. Relax

I realize that the end of the semester is a stressful time, especially if you have a TAship. BUT, I would say that a few days to a week prior to your defense date, relax and do not open your thesis. Take a step back and visualize your "so what", the bigger picture and the implication and impacts that your research makes.



This is crucial as we so often get so focused on the intricacies of our research that we forget about the bigger picture. For instance in this particular photo, we get so focused on what is inside of the frame (the research, the articles, the writing style etc), that we forget the whole beautiful landscape that is part of our research. And this is KEY!

2. On the day of the CPR

a. Attire

I would advise a business casual attire, nothing too formal, but formal enough to give you a sense of confidence. Though clothes are highly superficial, I do truly believe that clothes are a powerful shell. Wear something in which you feel comfortable, empowered and professional. If you are defending via Zoom or teleconferencing, make sure to wear a complete full outfit! YEs, it means wear pants! You may have to stand up unexpectedly during your defense and nobody wants to see that!

b. Check your surroundings

"Early is on time, on time is late". So...Get there early! If you are presenting in a room, make sure to come extra early to check that your PowerPoints will be projected correctly, that you do not have any projection problems, that your fonts (especially if you have a mac) show up properly on the screen. I know it's great to be able to present with your own computer or device, however, I recommend that you keep your presentation on a thumb drive on a PowerPoint format AND the PDF format, just in case. Now is also a good time to check to see what kinds of connections you'll need to have: do you need an adapter? HDMI? VGA? Get those now or borrow some from the NCSU libraries.

If you are defending via Zoom, definitely check your surroundings. Turn on your camera and place your computer where you will defend. Is there anything in the background that is particularly distracting or unattractive? Remove it! Is it a high traffic area? Do other members of your household need to come behind you to get to other rooms? How is your natural light? Do you need to drag more lamps to you or your face? Is your spot close to a washer and dryer or does that wall communicate

with a super noisy and unpredictable neighbor? How about sound? Would it be better to wear a headset, earphones? You get the point, prepare, prepare, prepare. All of these parameters are things you can control, so make sure you do just that!

c. Your presentation and Q&A

The CPR will start by opening remarks coming from your chair (me in this case), presenting you briefly (less than a minute) followed by your presentation (10 minutes maximum), followed by 45 minutes to 1h15min of questions by your committee members and I. Do bring or have a physical copy of your CP so that if we call anything to your attention, you are able to flip through the pages quickly to find a particular passage.

Do take the time to think and practice the "pregnant pause". We have all the time in the world to discuss. I would advise you to think about the questions before responding. Do not hesitate to ask your examiners to repeat a question or even clarify what they mean! Au contraire, it means you are really trying to understand the question and address it the best you can! Finally, do not hesitate to say that you do not know! It is always ok to say "It's a great idea/question. I hadn't considered that before. I will think about it in another iteration of my thesis (should you want to continue onto PhD). ". But do **not** end there! **DO** add anything remotely related to the question you have been asked. This is crucial! It says that though you have not considered a particular question, you see this question being addressed in your project at a particular moment, through a particular example. Of course, this has to be true. Do not invent something on the fly just to say something. If you really cannot relate the question further into your argument, then do not attempt to make further claims.

3. After the CPR

a. Decisions

During the deliberation process, you and your guests will be asked to step out of the room in order for your chair and your committee members to make a decision. There are three types of decisions to be made upon your review:

1 - Unconditional accept; I or your committee members may still *suggest* some minor changes to the project, but they are just that - **suggestions**. You pass whether you complete these changes or not.

2 - Accept with changes; Just what it says, but one caveat here - checking this box requires you and your chair (me here) to produce a plan to fix the problems with the CP. If changes are required (the vast majority of our projects), I will simply tell you **what changes are required** and **will give you a due date**. Once the changes are made within a reasonable amount of time (usually no more than 1 week for CP changes), I will then check the "unconditional accept" box.

3 - Unacceptable project. If the student's project is unacceptable, you should know that well before the presentation stage, because I or other committee members would have communicated that to you.



CONGRATULATIONS! It's been a pleasure to work with you, alongside you!