

Some points to consider for a humanities-focused presentation:

Key elements:

- a clear thesis claim supported by evidence
- justification/a sense of what is at stake for either a general or specialized audience (depending on the project) with this claim about this topic (is it interrupting a scholarly or popular consensus? so what/who cares?)
- usually (though not always--it depends on the nature of the project) some evidence of what other scholars have said about the topic and a sense of how the presenter's thesis claim relates to that other research
- a "map" early on in the presentation letting audience know what steps/elements the presentation will consist of and why/ to what end the steps are being taken/what the overall goal of the presentation will be (is the goal to present an overview of an entire honors thesis or just the argument of a single chapter or shorter project? or to show two sides of a debate and take a stance on it? or something else)
- clear transitions between the main sections of the presentation to help audience follow and engage with the argument

Additional issues to consider:

- PART OR WHOLE? decide up front whether you want to give a brief overview of your whole project or go more in depth into one chapter or element. In a short presentation, less is sometimes more.
- PRIMARY TEXT and EVIDENCE: audiences love to see the evidence—consider taking the time to go really in depth into one example or piece of evidence and show them your argument and how it applies to actual words or specific pieces of evidence instead of sticking with broader claims about whole bodies of work
- DELIVERY MODE: most papers in the humanities are still typically read (with maximum possible eye contact and built in moments of direct address) rather than ad-libbed; if you take this route, you'll want to edit your more "writerly" sentences for an oral presentation as opposed to being read--shorter, simpler syntax. minimizing complex structures and sentences opening with subord. clauses; need to set up quotes and signal clearly when they begin and end. Also consider making notes to yourself in the body of your text to remind yourself when to pause, look up, make a joke, say "quote" and unquote" etc.
- TECH: pros and cons of powerpoint/prezi etc. and how they relate to current professional norms in the humanities
- practice, practice practice-full dress rehearsals with tech if you're using any (not just reading in your head) and, if you can, have someone record you on camera (or record yourself) so you can check for rocking, swaying, strange gestures, "ums," etc.