Introduction

This document has been created to help you understand the requirements of the Capstone Oral Defense. The oral defense is typically conducted via a teleconference with the evaluator. You are required to prepare a multimedia presentation, usually PowerPoint or Keynote, that outlines your project. In it, you will detail the problem you investigated; state and answer your research questions; describe the methodology you used; present the data you collected; describe the results of your data analysis; summarize your conclusions; and describe strengths and weaknesses of your project. The actual task prompts can be seen below. Consult your assigned evaluator if you have any questions or concerns.

The capstone requires that you write academically at the graduate level, adhering to APA and Articulation standards. Please bear in mind that your capstone is the culminating project of your degree program. When archived, its artifacts will become viewable to other students, faculty, administrators, and accreditors. Thus it should represent your best writing. To meet these standards WGU has prepared the following instructions and template: https://web5.wgu.edu/aap/content/student%20guidelines%20apa-art%2001%2021%2011%2020(final).pdf. Both 5th and 6th editions of the APA Publication Manual are currently acceptable.

Task

Prepare a multimedia presentation (e.g., PowerPoint, Keynote) of talking points about your project (suggested length of 15–20 slides and approximately 30-45 minutes) by doing the following:

A. Present an overview of your capstone project.

B. Explain the process you went through to develop your project.
   1. Explain why you chose your project.
   2. Explain how your project fits in to the existing body of knowledge for your field.

C. Discuss the methods and outcomes of your project by doing the following:
   1. Outline any special strategies or methodologies you used.
   2. Summarize your results and conclusions.

D. Discuss the challenges you faced in completing this project.
   1. Outline any issues or obstacles you encountered.
   2. Explain the strategies you used to address these challenges.
      a. Evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies in allowing you to complete your project.
      b. Predict how you could apply these strategies to other projects you develop.

E. Discuss the weaknesses of your project.
   1. Explain how you identified these weaknesses.
   2. Explain what revisions you could make to the project to address these weaknesses.

F. Discuss the strengths of your project.
   1. Explain how you identified these strengths.
   2. Predict how you could apply these strengths to other projects you develop.
G. Provide recommendations for future study in your field.

H. Discuss how you can apply what you learned from your capstone project in your professional work environment.

I. Complete the capstone release form.

Note: Please save word-processing documents as *.rtf (Rich Text Format) files.

Note: When bulleted points are present in the task prompt, the level of detail or support called for in the rubric refers to those bulleted points.

Note: For definitions of terms commonly used in the rubric, see the Rubric Terms web link included in the Evaluation Procedures section.

Note: When using outside sources to support ideas and elements in a paper or project, the submission MUST include APA formatted in-text citations with a corresponding reference list for any direct quotes or paraphrasing. It is not necessary to list sources that were consulted if they have not been quoted or paraphrased in the text of the paper or project.

Note: No more than a combined total of 30% of a submission can be directly quoted or closely paraphrased from outside sources, even if cited correctly. For tips on using APA style, please refer to the APA Handout web link included in the APA Guidelines section.

Feedback

If you wish to provide feedback on this Course of Study, please contact Dr. Conrad Lotze at clotze@wgu.edu