

Surviving the ordeal

What if, have I !! I will be Ok, I should have!! ???????



preparation

- Speak to people who already defended their theses (confidence, and sense of expectation)
- Develop strategy session with your advisor
- Having your thesis defence structure ahead of your defence make you comfortable and focused
- Defined your thesis before your advisor, practice can make perfect. Prepare you psychologically
- Briefly, but concisely prepare 20 to 30 minutes presentation of your work

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- Good presentation inspires confidence
- Do not assume examiners know everything- tell the story and prove YOU know it
- Anticipate examiners comments (know how your examiners)

Showtime

- No matter how nervous you are, make sure to focus and to listen with care to the questions
- Treat examiners comments with respect
- Give straight forward defence (no need to quibble)
- Be prepared to be asked to address controversial aspects of your thesis.
- If you do not have an answer, do not fake it- reply that the question is interesting and you will take it on boarded.
- Thesis defence requires you to be political to an extent.
- One of the most crucial things about your thesis defences to maintain a level of passion about your work. After you are concluding an event of a long and a difficult journey

The moment of truth?!!

- You have been through it before in your academic career but this is the climax.
- Your supervisor impression is a reflection of your defence

In a nutshell

- You need patience and perseverance to see the PhD through
- Mr Arul Earnest

Thank you