

## **Defense Guidelines (MA & PhD, Creative Writing Candidates)**

**Julija Šukys**

If I'm your supervisor, you probably already know that I like clarity and preparedness. In this spirit, I've created a very short guide to MA & PhD thesis defenses. These guidelines only apply to me and to defenses that I chair. Other professors may run things differently.

1) Julija welcomes committee and thanks members for their service.

2) Candidate gets the floor for 10 minutes to present the thesis/dissertation:

**MA:** You can talk about your central idea, what you've tried to argue, what you learned and the challenges you faced.

**PhD:** Present the big concept behind the book/dissertation. What have you tried to achieve? How did you arrive at your structure? What role has research played in your work? What writerly traditions are you dialoging with? What challenges did you face? Briefly present the critical introduction and its connection to the body of the dissertation.

3) Julija invites other members of committee to offer comments and pose questions in turn.

Questions might include a query about the links between your creative and critical work. PhDs: we may discuss future plans for the texts: what will its next iteration be; what sorts of revisions would prepare the text for publication; what might be suitable venues. Be prepared to discuss your critical introduction.

4) Once discussion has come to a close, I'll ask the candidate to leave the room while we deliberate. When I ask you to return, we'll share our thoughts and decision with you.

The whole meeting should run around 1.5 hours for MA defenses; 2 hours for PhD.

Good luck and be confident. Remember that you are the expert in the room on that day.

**NB: Please check with Vickie regarding any paperwork that needs to be signed at the defense and/or before you will be allowed to graduate (namely, the "signature form" and D4 form. It is the candidate's responsibility to prepare and bring this documentation. See examples attached.**

EXAMPLE : Signature Form

The undersigned, appointed by the dean of the Graduate School, have examined the dissertation entitled

BORDER CROSSINGS, IDENTITIES, AND CREATIVE NONFICTION:  
HAITIAN TRAVEL GUIDES AND WRITING ABOUT HAITI

presented by [REDACTED]

a candidate for the degree of Masters of Arts

and hereby certify that, in their opinion, it is worthy of acceptance.

---

Professor Julija Sukys

---

Professor [REDACTED]

---

Professor [REDACTED]

EXAMPLE: D4 Form



# Report of the Dissertation Defense Form

*(This form should be completed and filed with the Graduate School within one month of exam completion)*

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Last Name, First Name)*

Mizzou ID number: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree (i.e PhD, EdD, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Academic program: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Emphasis area: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If applicable)*

Date of examination: \_\_\_\_\_

The above-named candidate has been examined by the committee with the following results:

PASSED

FAILED

### Signatures of doctoral committee members

*(Please sign full names legibly)*

Pass    Fail

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
*print & sign*

  

Outside member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*print & sign*

  

Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*print & sign*

  

Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*print & sign*

  

Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*print & sign*

  

Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*print & sign*

  

Director of graduate studies _____	Date _____	Dean of the graduate school _____	Date _____
------------------------------------	------------	-----------------------------------	------------

**DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX**  
*(office use only)*

Continuous enrollment list number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date copies sent to members and director of graduate studies: \_\_\_\_\_