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Understanding Your Thesis Advisor  
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WHAT YOUR ADVISOR SAYS  
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WHAT YOUR ADVISOR MEANS  
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Look on this as a learning  
experience

You're going to suffer

Let me explain the format of  
the defense

Let me make you even more nervous

I'm here to lend you support

I'm here to destroy you so you  
won't look smarter than me

I found the overall concept  
interesting

This is my token compliment before  
ripping your idea to shreds

I would like to have had more  
time to study this

I didn't read it

I have some concerns about  
the theory upon which your  
study is based

I hate the theory but I can't insult  
the author so I'll insult your work  
instead

There are some aspects of the  
study that I would like to hear  
more about

I read it but I just don't remember  
anything about it

Your hypotheses are not strongly  
enough linked to the existing  
literature

You came up with an innovative idea  
and I want to make sure you never do  
it again

Your research is an interesting  
extension of my own work

Why didn't I think of this before  
you did?

You have failed to take into account some of the more relevant literature

You failed to cite me

This really needs further revision; maybe I should help you with that

I think I'll add my name to the title page and submit it

I would like you to explain...

I don't know anything about this stuff so you'll have to explain it to me

Your statistical results don't seem to support your hypothesis

I don't understand statistics

Your selection of statistical tests is rather simplistic

I'm the only one that understands statistics and I wanted to rub it in

How did you ensure that you had drawn a random sample?

I had to come up with at least one question and this one always works

Let's wrap this up

I'm hungry

Maybe you should think more carefully about this issue before we get together again

Give me a break!!!

Could you step out of the room while the committee comes to a decision?

We decided beforehand to give you your degree, but we still want to make you sweat some more

We've decided to approve your dissertation

You're somebody else's problem now

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