

Truman Fellowship Interview Guidance

On-site Interview Format:

- Technical Seminar - 1 hour
- Panel Interview with Truman Selection Committee – 1.25 hours
 - Senior scientists from all areas of Sandia Labs
- Lunch with sponsor
- Technical interviews with sponsoring organization and other technical experts
- Lab Tours if appropriate

Seminar Instructions:

- Your talk must be comprehensible to the entire audience
 - Audience will have a technical background, but not all will be experts in your field
- Target 40 minutes for your presentation – you want to leave time for questions
- Half of the content should be about your current work, half should be on your proposed work
 - Articulate the value of your project ensuring you answer the following questions
 - What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using absolutely no jargon.
 - Explicitly state your hypothesis
 - Why is it important to national security?
 - How is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?
 - What is new in your approach and why do you think it will be successful?
 - Why is Sandia the best place to do this research?
 - What are the risks?
 - How long will it take?
 - If you are successful, what difference will it make? (Impact on national security)