A primary goal of assessment is to obtain a comprehensive picture of a student’s understanding and mastery of the material. Traditional assessment methods give a one-sided view, particularly in classes where presentations and group work are more common than lectures. Incorporating oral exams can provide a more complete picture by allowing the assessor to tailor the assessment to the individual student on the spot. Oral exams are also well-suited to assessing the mathematical thinking and reasoning skills that we desire our students to acquire.

In the talk, I will expand on the rationale behind my use of oral exams for both introductory and advanced major classes. On a practical level, I will discuss my implementation process and the advantages and disadvantages to this assessment method. I will also share students’ responses and reactions both before and after they underwent the assessment. (Received September 17, 2013)