What should the project entail?

There should be a paper and a brief oral presentation (10-15 minutes, as if you were at a conference).

Components of the paper should include:

An abstract

An introduction, including:

background on the problem with a literature review
an explanation of why is this an important topic
an explanation of why meta-analysis is appropriate
a description of the precise question(s) you are addressing: what decisions did you make about how to limit it? Why?
a discussion of moderators
a description of the nature of the outcomes

A methods section addressing:

How did you identify the literature? Provide specific information about search terms, about reference chasing, about what sources you browsed, and about attempts to identify gray literature [dissertations]. The detail should be such that a reader could replicate your search.

What literature did you identify? (e.g., how many studies, how many had relevant effect size information)

What were your exclusion and inclusion criteria?
A description of the coding scheme. This should include a description of how coding reliability was assessed. What necessary decisions arose (e.g. in operational definitions, rationale for classification scheme)?

Details about how challenging effect size calculations were addressed.

Analytic scheme. (Random effects model and why, software used, moderators considered)

Results

Information about the sample or studies (e.g., how many effects, characteristics of the primary samples such as age, ethnicity, and ses distributions)

A table of the data. (Two possibilities: one table for codes of characteristics, another with details about effects and info relevant to conditional variances; putting this all in one table.)

Graphical information (forest plot if possible).

Presentation of analytic results. Tables. Include reporting of variance component information. Inferential statistics.

Description of sensitivity analyses, with results. (e.g., publication bias checks and models, analysis with and without excluded effects, what if my variance component estimate is off).
Discussion

Interpret the findings with specific reference to what they say about your original constructs.

Why is this new and important information?

What does all this say about the world?

Strengths and weaknesses.

Future directions. What does this imply for practice, what does this imply for appropriate future primary studies?

Punchline.