

♣ PICK YOUR BATTLE ♣

THE VIVA DEFENCE

63
QUESTIONS



INTRODUCTION



WHAT PROBLEMS
YOUR RESEARCH
ADDRESS?



OWN YOUR WORK, OWN YOUR WORDS.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHAT ARE THE MAIN
ISSUES AND DEBATES
IN YOUR RESEARCH
AREA?



BE BOLD, QUESTION DEEPLY.

METHODOLOGY



PLEASE EXPLAIN
RESEARCH DESI



PERSISTENCE IN STUDY, ELEGANCE IN EX

FINDINGS



HOW DO YOU KNOW
AT YOUR FINDINGS

DISCUSSION



HOW HAS YOUR VIEW
OF YOUR RESEARCH
TOPIC CHANGED?

CONCLUSION



WHAT ARE THE
CONTRIBUTIONS
KNOWLEDGE



GAME AUTHOR: DR ANNICA LAU

Feel free to use the Viva Defence Card Game for yourself, but kindly contact the author for classroom or workshop use, and please note that selling the game is not permitted.

Instructions

- Start your preparations at least two weeks before your viva defence.
 - Read your work and highlight important sections to help you find your way around.
 - Cut out this pack of cards.
 - Shuffle the cards and draw at least 9 cards every day for 7 days. Speak the answers out loud.
 - Start again after 7 days for another round.
- Do a mock viva with your supervisors or peers.
- This helps you prepare for unexpected questions.



**PREPARATION IS THE KEY
TO YOUR VIVA SUCCESS.**

JOKER



**PICK THREE WORDS
THAT DESCRIBE YOUR
DOCTORAL RESEARCH**

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**PLEASE START BY
SUMMARISING YOUR
THESIS IN 5 MIN/3MIN
AND 1 MIN.**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**CAN YOU SUMMARISE
YOUR THESIS IN ONE
SENTENCE?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**WHAT IS THE IDEA
THAT BINDS YOUR
THESIS TOGETHER?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**WHAT MOTIVATED
AND/OR INSPIRED YOU
TO CARRY OUT THIS
RESEARCH?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**WHAT WERE THE
CRUCIAL RESEARCH
DECISIONS YOU MADE?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**WHAT IS YOUR STUDY
ABOUT AND WHY DID
YOU CHOOSE THIS?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**WHAT ARE THE
STRONGEST/WEAKEST
PARTS OF YOUR
WORK?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**WHAT HAVE YOU
LEARNED FROM THE
PROCESS OF DOING
YOUR DOCTORATE?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**AS A RESEARCHER,
WHAT CHANGE HAS
THIS JOURNEY
BROUGHT IN YOU?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**DID THE RESEARCH
PROCESS GO AS PER YOUR
PLAN OR WERE THERE
ANY UNEXPECTED
CIRCUMSTANCES THAT
YOU HAD TO DEAL WITH?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

GENERAL QUESTIONS



**WHAT ADVICE WOULD
YOU GIVE TO A
RESEARCH STUDENT
ENTERING THIS
RESEARCH AREA?**



PREPARE THOROUGHLY. PRESENT CONFIDENTLY.

INTRODUCTION



**WHAT PROBLEMS DOES
YOUR RESEARCH
ADDRESS?**



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

INTRODUCTION



**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE
TO CALL YOUR TITLE
[...]?**



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

INTRODUCTION



**WHY IS THE PROBLEM
YOU HAVE TACKLED
WORTH TACKLING?**



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

INTRODUCTION



**HOW DID YOUR
RESEARCH QUESTION
EMERGE?**



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

INTRODUCTION



**WHAT IS THE REASON
FOR SELECTING THE
RESEARCH QUESTIONS?**



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

INTRODUCTION



**WHAT ARE YOUR
RESEARCH QUESTIONS?**



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

INTRODUCTION



**WHAT IS THE KEY
FOCUS OF YOUR
RESEARCH?**



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

INTRODUCTION



WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRACTICAL OUTCOMES OF YOUR RESEARCH?



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

INTRODUCTION



WHAT ARE THE MAIN THEORETICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUR RESEARCH?



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

INTRODUCTION



WHAT METHODOLOGICAL ADVANCES HAVE YOU MADE?



KNOW YOUR WORK. OWN YOUR WORDS.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHY A NARRATIVE OR SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES IN YOUR SUBJECT AREA?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHAT ARE THE MAIN DEBATES IN YOUR RESEARCH AREA?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHAT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE YOU WITNESSED IN THIS FIELD SINCE YOU BEGAN YOUR DOCTORATE?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



HOW DID DEVELOPMENTS IN YOUR RESEARCH FIELD CHANGE YOUR RESEARCH CONTEXT?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHO HAS THE STRONGEST INFLUENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR SUBJECT AREA IN THEORY AND PRACTICE?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHICH ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT PAPERS THAT RELATE TO YOUR THESIS?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHAT PUBLISHED WORK IS CLOSEST TO YOURS? HOW IS YOUR WORK DIFFERENT?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF YOUR SUBJECT AREA?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



HOW DOES YOUR WORK RELATE TO [...]?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

LITERATURE REVIEW



WHAT ARE THE MOST RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN YOUR AREA?



BE BOLD. QUESTION DEEPLY.

METHODOLOGY



WHY DID YOU USE THIS RESEARCH METHODOLOGY?



PERSISTENCE IN STUDY. ELEGANCE IN EXPLANATION.

METHODOLOGY



WHAT DID YOU GAIN FROM YOUR RESEARCH PARADIGM?



PERSISTENCE IN STUDY. ELEGANCE IN EXPLANATION.

METHODOLOGY



PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR RESEARCH DESIGN.



PERSISTENCE IN STUDY. ELEGANCE IN EXPLANATION.

METHODOLOGY



WHAT WERE THE ALTERNATIVES TO THE METHODOLOGY?



PERSISTENCE IN STUDY. ELEGANCE IN EXPLANATION.

METHODOLOGY




WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE GAINED BY USING ANOTHER APPROACH?




PERSISTENCE IN STUDY, ELEGANCE IN EXPLANATION.

METHODOLOGY




WHY DID YOU USE [...] AS THE ANALYSIS METHOD?




PERSISTENCE IN STUDY, ELEGANCE IN EXPLANATION.

METHODOLOGY




HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH THE ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR WORK?




PERSISTENCE IN STUDY, ELEGANCE IN EXPLANATION.

FINDINGS




HOW HAVE YOU EVALUATED YOUR WORK?




INSIGHT DEEP, IMPACT PROFOUND.

FINDINGS




SUMMARISE YOUR KEY FINDINGS!




INSIGHT DEEP, IMPACT PROFOUND.

FINDINGS




HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT YOUR FINDINGS ARE CORRECT?




INSIGHT DEEP, IMPACT PROFOUND.

FINDINGS




WHICH OF THESE FINDINGS ARE THE MOST INTERESTING TO YOU AND WHY?




INSIGHT DEEP, IMPACT PROFOUND.

FINDINGS




WERE THERE ANY SUPRISES IN YOUR FINDINGS?




INSIGHT DEEP, IMPACT PROFOUND.

FINDINGS




WHAT ELSE DID YOU FIND THAT WAS NOT PART OF YOUR PRESENTED RESULTS?




INSIGHT DEEP, IMPACT PROFOUND.

DISCUSSION



**PLEASE ELABORATE
ON YOUR MAIN
OUTCOMES.**



NAVIGATE CRITIQUES. ANCHOR IN KNOWLEDGE.

DISCUSSION




**HOW HAS YOUR VIEW
OF YOUR RESEARCH
TOPIC CHANGED?**




NAVIGATE CRITIQUES. ANCHOR IN KNOWLEDGE.

DISCUSSION




**WHAT HAVE YOU
FOUND THAT MERITS A
DOCTORATE?**




NAVIGATE CRITIQUES. ANCHOR IN KNOWLEDGE.

DISCUSSION




**HOW DO YOUR
FINDINGS RELATE TO
LITERATURE IN YOUR
FIELD?**




NAVIGATE CRITIQUES. ANCHOR IN KNOWLEDGE.

DISCUSSION




**WHO
AGREES/DISAGREES
WITH YOUR
DISCUSSION AND WHY?**




NAVIGATE CRITIQUES. ANCHOR IN KNOWLEDGE.

DISCUSSION




**HOW DO LIMITATIONS
OF YOUR RESEARCH
AFFECT THE
INTERPRETATION OF
YOUR RESULTS?**




NAVIGATE CRITIQUES. ANCHOR IN KNOWLEDGE.

CONCLUSION




**WHAT ARE THE
CONTRIBUTIONS TO
KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR
THESIS?**




EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

CONCLUSION




**WHAT ARE THE
CONTRIBUTIONS TO
PRACTICE OF YOUR
THESIS?**




EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

CONCLUSION



**TO WHAT EXTEND DO
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
GENERALISE?**



EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

CONCLUSION




WHO WILL BE MOST INTERESTED IN YOUR WORK?




EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

CONCLUSION




WHAT ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION HAS YOUR THESIS MADE TO YOUR FIELD OF STUDY?




EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

CONCLUSION




WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF YOUR WORK TO OTHER RESEARCHERS?




EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

CONCLUSION




HOW LONG TERM ARE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS?




EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

CONCLUSION




WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF YOUR WORK TO PRACTITIONERS?




EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

CONCLUSION




WHICH ASPECTS OF YOUR WORK DO YOU INTEND TO PUBLISH AND WHERE?




EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

CONCLUSION




YOU PROPOSE FUTURE RESEARCH. HOW WOULD YOU START THIS? WHAT WOULD BE THE DIFFICULTIES?




EMBRACE CHALLENGES. SEEK CLARITY.

JOKER




WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER YOU DEFENDED YOUR THESIS?




BE SINCERE & HAVE FUN

JOKER



PICK THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOUR DOCTORAL JOURNEY.



BE SINCERE & HAVE FUN