

## **VIVA CARD GAME**





#### INTRODUCTION



Why is the problem you have tackled worth tackling?

LITERATURE REVIEW



How did you review the literature in your field of research?

**METHODOLOGY** 



Please explain your research design.

#### **FINDINGS**





#### CONCLUSION



Created with #pracademic passion by Dr. Annica Lau

### 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 11-12 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.

Shuffle 80 cards, draw, answer, improve Daily.

VIVA VICTORY IS COMING!



# GENERAL QUESTIONS

Please start by summarising your thesis in 3 minutes\*.

\*You may replace for 1 or 5 minutes.

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



What would be the one sentence you would use to summarise your thesis?

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



What is the idea that binds your thesis together?

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



What motivated and/or inspired you to carry out this research?

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



Have there been any key decisions that have shaped your research?

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



What are the strongest/weakest parts of your work?

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



What would have improved your work?

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



What have you learned from the process of doing your doctoral study?

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



How has this doctoral journey changed you as a researcher?

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



Did the research process go as planned, or were there any unexpected circumstances that you had to deal with?

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**



What advice would you give to a doctoral student entering this area?

#### INTRODUCTION



How did you choose the title of your thesis?

#### **INTRODUCTION**



Which problems does your research adress?

#### **INTRODUCTION**



Why is the problem you have tackled worth tackling?

#### **INTRODUCTION**



How did you develop your research questions and/or hypotheses?

#### **INTRODUCTION**



What is the reason for selecting the research questions and/or hypotheses?

#### **INTRODUCTION**

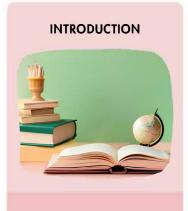


What are your research questions and/or hypotheses?

#### **INTRODUCTION**



What is your study about and why did you choose this?



What are the main practical outcomes of your research?

#### INTRODUCTION



What are the main theoretical achievements of your research?

#### INTRODUCTION



How did you further develop the methodology used for the research?

Only if applicable.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW



How did you review the literature in your field of research?

#### LITERATURE REVIEW



What are the main issues relevant to your research?

#### LITERATURE REVIEW



What are the main debates in your research area?

#### LITERATURE REVIEW



What developments have you witnessed in this field since you began your doctorate?

#### LITERATURE REVIEW



How have the developments in your field of research changed the context of your work?

#### LITERATURE REVIEW



Who had the strongest influence in the development of your subject area in theory and practice?



Which are the three most important publications that relate to your thesis?





What published work is closest to yours?

How is your work different?

#### LITERATURE REVIEW



What are the earliest known roots of your research and what have been the key milestones in developing it?

#### LITERATURE REVIEW



How does your work relate to xxx\*?

\*Insert important publications.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW



What are the most recent major developments in your area?

#### **METHODOLOGY**



Why did you choose this research methodology?

#### **METHODOLOGY**



What did you gain from your research paradigm?

#### **METHODOLOGY**

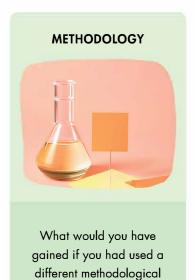


Please explain your research design.

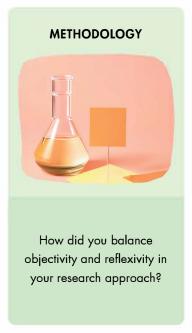
#### **METHODOLOGY**



What alternatives were there to your methodology?

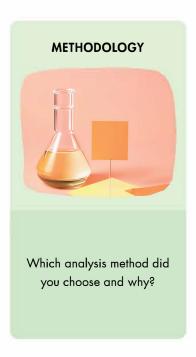


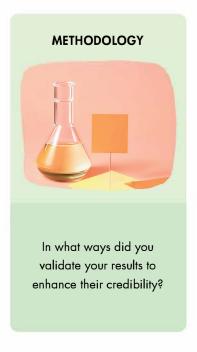
approach?

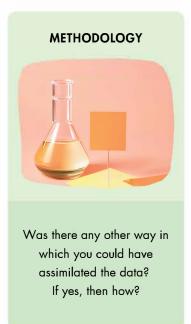


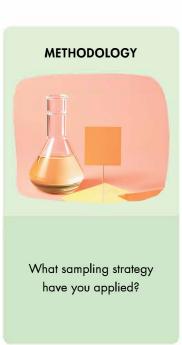








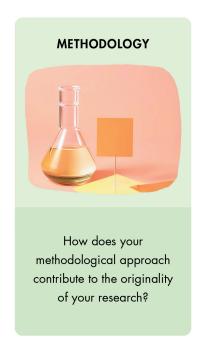




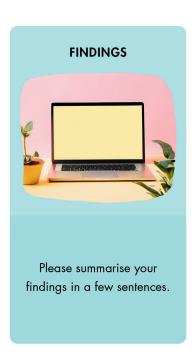


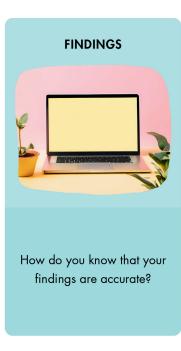












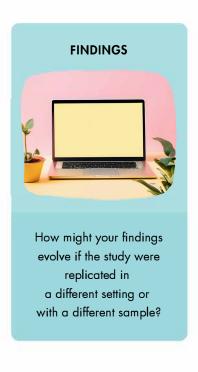




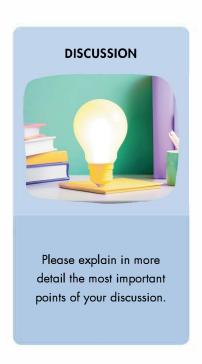


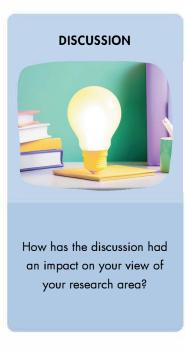


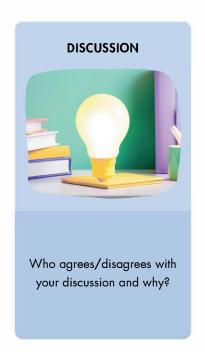


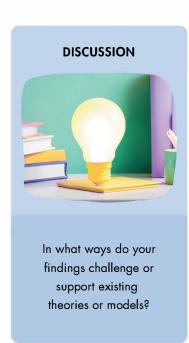














#### **DISCUSSION**



Were there any contradictions in your findings, and how did you explain them in your discussion?

#### **DISCUSSION**



If you had to revisit your research, how would you refine your discussion section to strengthen its impact?

#### DISCUSSION



To what extent can your research be applied beyond its original context?

#### **DISCUSSION**



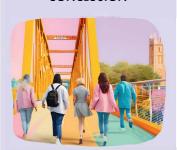
What are the broader implications of your findings for policy, practice, or academia?

#### CONCLUSION



Who will be most interested in your work?

#### CONCLUSION



What contributions have you made through your research that justify the awarding of a doctorate?

#### CONCLUSION



What is the relevance of your work to other researchers?

#### **CONCLUSION**



What practical recommendations emerge from your research, and how can they be applied by practitioners?

#### CONCLUSION



How long term are your contributions?

#### CONCLUSION



Which aspects of your work do you intend to publish – and where?

#### CONCLUSION



If you were to start your research again, what would you do differently?

#### CONCLUSION



Please elaborate on the limitations of your research.

#### CONCLUSION



You propose future research. How would you start this? What would be the difficulties?

#### **BONUS QUESTION**



What's the first thing you'll do after your viva?

#### **BONUS QUESTION**



If your thesis was turned into a movie, what would be its title?

#### **BONUS QUESTION**



If you had to explain your research to a 6-year-old, how would you do it?

#### **BONUS QUESTION**



In hindsight, pick three words that describe your personal doctoral journey.







You're warmly encouraged to use the Viva Card Game for your personal viva preparation or small group sessions. If you wish to use it more formally in workshops, please kindly get in touch first. Commercial use (selling, distributing, publishing) is not permitted.

## You're prepped, you're ready, you're done now pass the card game on!

THANK YOU



Big thanks to Prof Lynn Nichol, Dr Joshua Haist, and Christian Rebehn, who kindly helped with the final review for pilot phase 2. Their feedback made the game smarter, sharper, and even more practical. Artwork and Visuals – Created with a blend of Canva creativity and AI wizardry.

This project is currently in its second pilot phase. It's been tested and improved, but there's always room for fresh insights. As the lucky owner of this free copy,

please give me some feedback your experience could influence future versions!



