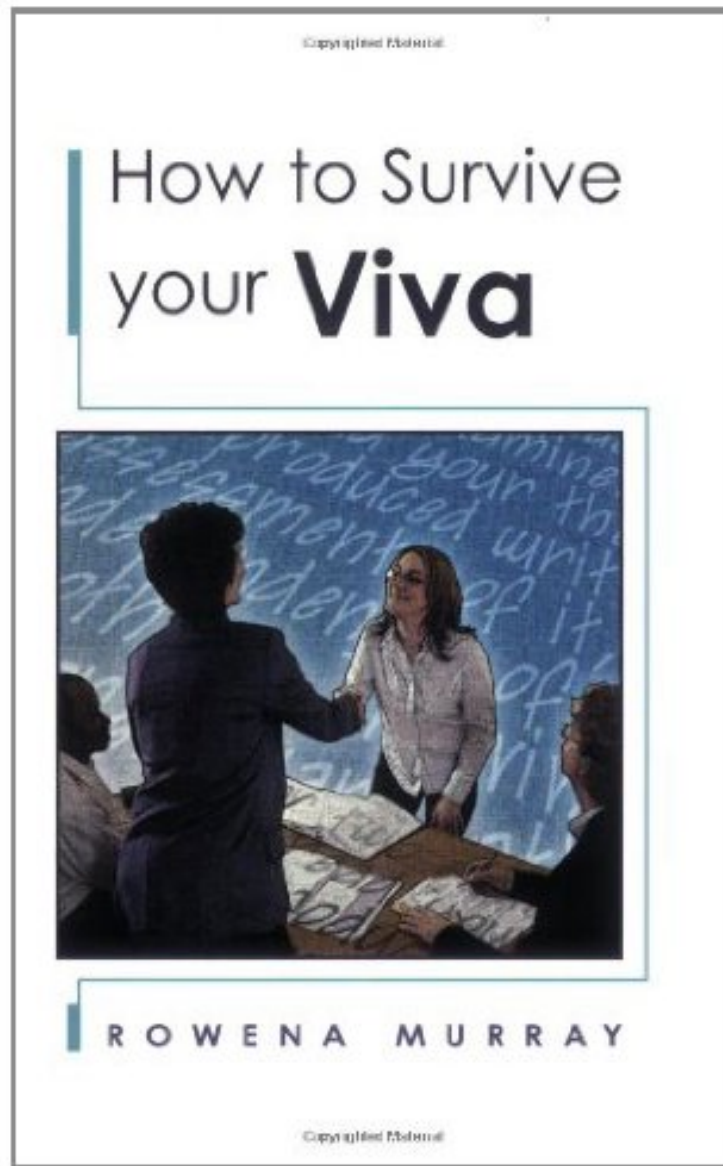


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How to Survive Your Viva

Rowena Murray

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Rowena Murray : How to Survive Your Viva before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Survive Your Viva:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A lifeline for those awaiting their viva.By Erwin LosekootA really down-to-earth and accessible book. Full of helpful ideas and tips. Highly recommended.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good but Can be extremely DigestedBy Abdulkareem AlSofiA good book with some nice advice and perspective. But given the reader is typically close to his actual VIVA the author bewilder on too much

details and go on and on to illustrate some points. Though to be fair many chapters include some nice bulleted lists which concise and straight to the point. With that, I felt the need to highlight anything relevant then go over the highlights and pick the main points (which I am still doing). The book was too long that after reading it I felt I went back to square one with regard to the VIVA? Also, the publisher limits the highlights that will be shown online! This is something bad with all publishers, especially for books that are educational which limits their purpose. I think should find a solution. I understand their might be issues with piracy but one suggestion instead of limiting the number of highlights limit the length and continuity of the highlights. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. You will survive but you may not triumph By M Gemmill-Toyama I feel lukewarm about this book. It seems to be one of the few out there covering this topic, so a major thanks to the author for addressing it! There were some useful gems of advice in the book, but I felt like the book could have been written better to bring out those gems. At times, I felt like I was trudging through quotes from other students that didn't add much to the book. Perhaps the author felt like she wouldn't have enough material otherwise, but I would have suggested shortening the book considerably. Also, I feel like the aim of the viva should not be to survive but to "triumph". Every person will have a different version of "triumph" whether it is to pass with no changes or to have an interesting conversation about their thesis. But of course, this is my personal opinion!

"The aims and objectives... are comprehensive, covering very urgent needs in a hitherto neglected aspect within the research training field. ... This book provides a thorough digest of all the important aspects of the viva process, recognizing diversity but noting common demands, expectations and concerns. It is also a valuable resource of relevant literature in the field. ... I wish that this book had not only been available for my many previous students but for myself when I underwent the process, surviving more by good fortune than informed guidance, and suffering unnecessary levels of anxiety in the process." *Studies in Higher Education* "This is the first book of its type... to focus entirely on this one short but vital part of the PhD process. It's a vital stage in gaining your degree, yet most people make surprisingly little preparation for it. ... My own PhD viva had some bad moments because I invited an extra examiner who didn't really need to be there - and he decided to make waves (because he had no personal investment in the process). If I had read this book first, I wouldn't have made that mistake. It's a crucial moment in your academic career. The price of a book like this will repay itself a hundredfold in your first year of subsequent employment." *Mantex* "The book... covers pretty much all that students might need to know about the viva, including aspects of it that they might never have considered. ... Throughout Rowena Murray is concerned to recognise that candidates may feel powerless but that they can learn to be more powerful by making themselves knowledgeable about local regulations, procedures and customs, practising appropriate skills and preparing themselves as they would for any other form of assessment." *Learning and Teaching in Higher Education* The oral examination is a new type of communication event. It requires the highest standard of communication skills. Writing a thesis or dissertation requires students to pull their ideas together into a unified whole; oral examinations take it all apart again. Typical questions, and strategies for answering them, are provided in order to help participants prepare and practise. The book features: Real examples of questions and answers Narratives of experiences Planning tools Preparation framework Specific verbal strategies to use in the viva to do justice to the thesis User-friendly writing style Reading list This is the first book to provide comprehensive coverage of the viva. It is an essential handbook for all involved in oral examinations: students, supervisors, tutors and examiners, including undergraduate, Masters and doctoral examinations.

About the Author Rowena Murray is a senior lecturer in the Centre for Academic Practice at the University of Strathclyde. Rowena runs consultancies on Writing for Publication for universities across the UK and overseas and for other institutions, such as healthcare trusts. She has published on aspects of academic writing.