Potential Defense Questions Collected by Janine Lim
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Setting Up the Study / Literature

- What is your theoretical framework?
- How did your assumptions affect your study?
- What are some of the major learnings from the literature that surprised you?
- What process did you use in the literature gathering and sorting?
- How did you decide which literature to use?
- Who are the key contributors in your literature review & why?
- What previous research has been done on the topic of your study?
- What are the results of the previous researches on your topic?

Methods

- Explain what your study is all about.
- How did you go about answering your research questions?
- How did you go about selecting your sample? How confident are you that those who participated are a good representation of your population of VCs? Why?
- What hypothesis do you want to test?
- Why did you choose the methods you did? How did they work for you? What would you do differently next time? How did the methodology help or hinder your ability to answer the research questions?
- Do your results generalize to the population? What population?
- Validity and reliability (what is it and did you show it?)
- Why did you choose the sample you did? Would your results be different with a different sample? Discuss sample & population & relation between them.
- What is the difference between correlation and prediction?
- Explain what it is and why you used it: ex post facto research design; cross validation; factor analysis; multiple regression; online survey; Bonferroni correction
- Be able to say something about coding the categorical variables as continuous 0/1.
- What are the weaknesses / limitations / delimitations in your research design?

Content / Results / Discussion / Conclusion

- (Jeffery) Is VC actually fast growing? Is videoconferencing an educational innovation?
- What about your study surprised you the most?
- What will you do with the results of your study?
- What questions does your study raise?
- What have you added to the body of knowledge?
- Why did you choose to report the results in the order/way you did?
- Be able to look at any table and say what it tells me as a practitioner (Newman).

Reflecting / Process

- What did you learn in the research?
- Some have said that there are only two kinds of research – theory generating and theory testing. Where might your study fit into those ideas?
- Research is fraught with all kinds of difficulties and challenges. What advise would you give to others embarking on a study of this scope? Which pieces did you fine easier or harder… focusing the topic? Finding the participants? Entering the field? Collecting and analyzing the data? Writing the results? What prepared you to do these tasks?
- How did the study change you?
- Why did you choose this topic to study for your dissertation? How does your subject appeal to you?
- What do you think you know from this study that you didn't know before?
- If you were to share what you learned as a consultant for another site, what would you share?
- Were you prepared for this research?

- How does the leadership program connect to your study?
- Based on what you have been studying, what do you “know”?
- Why was your research worth doing? How does it contribute? Does it have any practical use?
- What in your opinion is the most significant piece of research?
- What impact do you think your paper will have?
- How is this dissertation connected with your future career?