

Name of collection

Video 4 - Student

Judy Chandler:

Well, it was actually nerve wracking and exciting at the same time. I've really enjoyed talking about the topic that had genuinely piqued my interest so much so that I was inspired to commit two years of research and study in the hope of making some form of contribution to practice and possibly even theory. The fancy I would say think carefully about why you care about your topic. In other words, it's important to be able to articulate the passion that sits behind your decision to pursue doctoral study. This motivation comes in handy at various points on the roller coaster that is the doctoral journey. You could also tie your own professional and academic background into your explanation.

Secondly, try to articulate why your topic matters. This would eventually develop into the contribution that you intend to make. You may already have an idea of how you think you might go about the study based on similar studies you have read about. You may also want to read your proposal again, before your interview noting any key readings. It's useful to focus on a couple of key readings that you've initially identified as key and the reasons why they are important to your intended study.

And then finally, and this probably one of the most important tips. That's take care of yourself in the day or days before your interview. It's so easy to obsess about how the interview might go, and maybe even stay up late reading and rereading things. But the better course of action is to go to the interview well rested and having prepared over time, including preparing notes or questions that you might have for the interviewers. You're more likely to respond clearly and feel calmer if you've had enough sleep and are feeling as well as possible.

Probably one thing and that's, don't feel you have to hug everything fully formed. And that you need to know all there is to know about your topic. That will come with time. And it's a fascinating experience as you notice your own knowledge deepening in your expertise building as you begin to mature gradually. So, sharing what you do know and then what you're looking forward to finding out, might be a more helpful approach, and is less pressurized.