

A COMPANION TO THE VIVA INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Frequently asked questions

The questions faculty and administrators ask us most often about Viva, with straight answers.

WEB

vivaproof.com

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01 Academic integrity & trust

How Viva keeps a conversation honest without accusing anyone.

Q1

What stops a student from cheating in the conversation?

Several checks run at the same time. Viva confirms the speaker is the student's own enrolled voice, asks a question about an image on the screen that a voice-only AI tool can't answer, and notices if they leave the tab partway through. Webcam and gaze checks can be turned on for more. Getting past all of them at once is very hard.

Q2

Could a student just read a script, or be coached off-screen?

It shows. Because every follow-up comes from the student's own submission, a memorized answer falls apart the moment it's pushed on, and the voice match and focus signals catch an off-screen helper. The instructor sees all of this and can start a fresh conversation if something looks off.

Q3

How is this different from an AI-writing detector?

AI-writing detectors guess whether a piece of text was machine-written, and they get it wrong often, especially with honest or non-native writers. Viva doesn't analyze the text at all. It talks with the student about their own work, so understanding is demonstrated instead of guessed at. It's fairer to students, and rewording a draft won't get you past it.

Q4

Does Viva decide who cheated?

No. Viva never accuses anyone. It gives one of three read-outs, from "looks consistent" to "needs a closer look" to "high concern," and shows the evidence behind each one. The instructor looks at that and makes the call.

02 For faculty & instructors

What it changes in your week, and how much control you keep.

Q1

What does Viva do for instructors?

It gives you confidence that the work is a student's own without having to police it yourself. Run it as a first pass so your time goes to the students who actually need attention, and check the class summary to see which concepts landed and which need another go.

Q2

Do I have to use it on every assignment?

No. You turn it on per assignment and choose which ones get a conversation. Many instructors use it only on the few high-stakes pieces where it really matters who did the work.

Q3

Can I tailor it to how I teach?

Yes. Each assignment has its own settings: how long the conversation lasts, which checks run, whether students see results right away, whether they get a practice run, and more. The defaults are reasonable, so you only change what you want to.

Q4

How much of my time does it take?

Very little of yours. You create the assignment the way you normally would and post it to students. From there Viva runs every conversation on its own and gives you one clear report per student. It doesn't add to your workload; it handles the time-consuming interviews that instructors can't run at scale, and flags only the few students worth a closer look.

Q5

Does Viva give out grades?

That's up to you. Viva can suggest a grade and explain its reasoning, or you can switch scoring off and use it only as a check on understanding. The grade that counts is always the one you give, and human judgment stays central.

03 For students & learning

Why students end up understanding their own work better.

Q1

How does this actually help students learn?

Our pilots showed two clear effects. When students know they'll have to talk their work through, they go back and re-read it before submitting. And explaining their reasoning out loud tends to make it stick; numerous students told us they understood their own work better after the conversation than before. Each one also comes away with feedback and a growing record of their strengths.

Q2

Won't an "interview" stress students out?

It's a conversation, not an interrogation. The questions adapt to each student, the pace stays relaxed, and there's no audience. In our pilots, students often found it less nerve-racking than being put on the spot by an instructor.

Q3

Can a student get more than one try?

Yes, in a few ways, and you decide which are on. There's an optional practice run with no stakes. There's a mastery mode that keeps offering fresh questions until a student's understanding is clear. And you can grant a second attempt yourself whenever you think it's warranted.

Q4

Is it fair to quieter students, non-native speakers, or students with accommodations?

Yes. It runs in the student's own language and grades what they understand, not how polished or accented their speech is. You can also set accommodations per student, including holding back integrity flags in cases where an accommodation explains them.

04 Assignments & fit

What kinds of work Viva reads, and where it fits best.

Q1

What kinds of work does it support?

Most kinds. Essays and reports, problem sets, slide decks, spreadsheets with live formulas, PDFs, code, even images and digital art. Viva reads the actual file the student handed in and builds the questions from it. For topics with nothing written to submit, there's an oral-exam mode.

Q2

What isn't a great fit?

Work with nothing to talk about. Pure multiple-choice or timed recall quizzes don't gain much from a conversation. Viva is at its best whenever a student can explain a choice, walk through their reasoning, or describe how they did something.

Q3

What subjects and levels does it work for?

Any subject where a student can explain their thinking: humanities essays, lab reports, math problem sets, coding, and plenty more. Schools and universities both use it, and it works in the student's own language. As long as there's something for the student to talk through, it works.

Q4

How long is a conversation, and what does a student need?

About five to seven minutes, and you can set it shorter or longer. It runs right in the browser with a microphone, with nothing to install and no session to schedule. The student starts it whenever they're ready.

05 Integration, rollout & privacy

How it fits your systems, where it is today, and how data is protected.

Q1

How does it fit our existing systems?

Viva opens inside your course as a standard LTI link, the same way Turnitin or Gradescope does, and it works with Canvas, Blackboard, Moodle, Schoology, and any other LTI-compatible LMS. Rosters can sync automatically through OneRoster, ClassLink, or Veracross, and students sign in with your school's existing single sign-on.

Q2

What stage is the product at?

It's a live product in active use. We're running pilots with universities and schools, and moving some of those partners into wider rollouts across their institution.

Q3

How is student data protected?

Student work and voice are handled under FERPA, COPPA, the EU and UK GDPR, and Korea's PIPA. Voice enrollment requires consent, and the optional webcam check runs entirely on the student's own device, with no video ever uploaded or stored. Everything is encrypted, kept within your institution, and deleted on a set schedule.

Q4

Do you train AI on our students' work?

No, not by default. Any research use is stripped of identifying details and happens only under a signed agreement with your institution. It's your decision.

Q5

What if the connection drops mid-conversation?

The conversation saves as it goes and can pick back up, so a dropped connection or a closed tab won't cost the student their work.

STILL HAVE A QUESTION?

A conversation is the fastest way to see whether Viva fits your program.

Book a walkthrough, request a pilot, or just send us your questions. We reply quickly.

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