



Verteidigungs-Coach

AI-assisted training for the oral defence of the matura thesis

A Socratic coach plays the critical but fair examiner: it asks challenge questions about the student's own thesis, gives feedback on the talk outline and drills answers under follow-up questioning – never writing any text.

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→ <https://verteidigung.unisg.teaches.ch>

The problem

The matura thesis ends with an oral presentation and examination – for many students the first real exam situation of its kind. It is rarely practised: supervisors cannot simulate an examination, and generic rhetoric tips do not help with critical questions about one's own thesis. At the same time, AI use must be handled transparently and fairly.

What the coach does

Examiner questions on the student's own thesis

The coach generates critical but fair examiner questions – grounded in the actually uploaded thesis (Word/PDF, multiple versions) and oriented on the 2024 national curriculum.

Feedback on the talk outline

The presentation outline is mirrored Socratically: what is missing, what does not hold, where is the through-line?

Answer drill (rebuttal)

Students answer a question and the coach pushes back with critical follow-ups – just like the real examination. Arguing under pressure becomes trainable.

Development drill

Questions about how the thesis evolved from version to version – only the student who actually wrote it can answer them.

Transparency & integrity

Every AI interaction is recorded in the integrity ledger; the declaration of integrity and the list of aids are generated automatically.

Feedback, not ghost-writing

The coach never writes text and gives no model answers to memorise – it asks, mirrors and challenges.

How it works

Students upload their thesis (optionally in several versions), enter research question, method and core claim – and then practise in four modes: examiner questions, talk outline, answer drill and development. All asynchronous, any time, as often as needed.

Pilot – what we're looking for

- Students about to present their matura thesis – and supervisors who want to accompany the training.
- Honest feedback: are the questions realistic and fair? Does the training noticeably help in the real examination?
- Optionally: examiners' views on the question level and the format of the declarations.

Data protection

Swiss hosting (Infomaniak, Geneva). For the AI feedback, excerpts of the thesis are sent to the Google Gemini API (paid tier, processing i.a. in the USA); Google does not use these inputs to train its models. Public gymnasiums fall under cantonal data-protection law – we clarify the details with each pilot school before any real student data is processed.