

## PhD Academic Residency

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### Program Transcript

#### *Skills for Doctoral Research Literature Critique*

Dr. Nina Nabors:

I'm Dr. Nina Nabors, full-time faculty member and residency coordinator for the school of psychology here at Walden University. I'm going to be speaking today on the peer review system.

Purpose of peer review. The purpose of the peer review system is to ensure high quality research. To have research judged by your peers as being worthy of incorporation into the larger body of scientific knowledge. Your article will become a scholarly resource for other resources.

Identifying resources as peer reviewed. How do you know when something is peer reviewed? There are a couple of ways. The first process is through the journal homepage, which describes whether or not they use a peer review process in soliciting articles. You can also find out if something is peer reviewed by going directly to the library and searching the databases that you are using. They will have notations by journals which use a peer review process.

Examples of things that are not peer reviewed. Some books are not peer reviewed. If you think about it, books include one or more authors creating content for a particular topic, they're not peer reviewed. Edited books are an exception. Edited books, there's more than one author, they solicit chapters from other authors and they review those chapters before including them in their volume. So those are exceptions, but generally books are not. In addition newspapers, magazines, and other types of news and social media periodicals are not peer reviewed.

And lastly, websites, most of them are not peer reviewed. And someone who's developed that particular web site who puts up all the content. Very important to understand that web sites are not peer reviewed.

Your dissertation committee also serves as a peer review process for you. Your dissertation committee judges your research as worthy of them as well as other scholarly peers. Your dissertation committee includes committee members, your chair, and importantly, the IRB. IRB also serves as a peer review process for your dissertation.

It's important for you to understand the relevance of the peer review system, because you as a student engage in scholarly critique. It's important for you to

have understanding of how to approach scientific literature. Even though the article has been published, no article is perfect. They all have strengths and limitations. Your role in the new literature for your course papers, and the dissertation, is to critique the scholarship for strengths and limitations that inform your own research study.

In sum, the peer review system is important as you critique the literature and while it will seem difficult at first, the more you do it, the more you understand the relevance of peer review for your own research.

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