

Thoughts on the Doctoral Experience

by Wallace Southerland, Ph.D.

Walden University
Dallas Residency

January 2008

Thoughts on the Doctoral Experience

- Whether on-line or in a physical setting, the doctoral experience is a rigorous, scholarly process
- Critical thinking and analysis are expected at all times and should be evident in all assignments – that is, take your thinking to another level – raise your academic game
- You are expected to be the source of the next generation of new knowledge, the next generation of problem solvers

Thoughts on the Doctoral Experience

- The doctoral experience will be frustrating a great deal of the time, but how you deal with the frustration will be an indicator of your readiness for doctoral work
- You are expected to rely on your intuition, instincts, and good judgment more so than relying on others to solve problems
- You are expected to manage the process, your advisor, and your committee members

Thoughts on the Doctoral Experience

- The doctoral experience will be, at times, ambiguous
- The doctoral experience is a collegial experience
- The doctoral experience is a political experience
- The doctoral experience is a gateway to a distinguished club of academicians, scholars, scientists, and practitioners
- Completing the doctoral experience will be one of the most rewarding personal achievements you will experience

Thoughts on the Doctoral Experience

That's it!