

DOY Dr. Elif Kalemdaroglu Wheeler

Yes, indeed.

Okay. And now it's even full screen. Wonderful. Thank you.

All right, I'm on mute now.

All right. Um, so thank you for having me. Um, as Dr.

Under Hall, um, doll, um, suggested I, you know, I am here because, um, I did win, um, dissertation of the year this past year, and it was such an honor.

And when she asked whether, you know, I'm willing to come back and share my lessons learned story, you know, I'll be, you know, of course, more than happy to do so.

So thank you for having me, and thank you for joining.

Um, I'm going to move through the slides again, thank you for coming.

Um, the two were email addresses I wanted to share with you just in case you know, you have, you see something, you have questions, you may, you know, reach out to me anytime.

Um, one of them is for my, for my work, and the other one is for the school, um, web, um, email address.

I apologize. Um, so either one is fine, but reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Um, so the way I organize this presentation is I'm gonna ge talk a little bit about myself, and then I'm gonna talk more about myself, about the doctoral journey, and, um, give you some quick pointers about, you know, what are some things that I had experienced, um, while I was go writing my dissertation and going through my doctoral journey.

But, um, I also have my own editing and coaching company.

So some of the things that I see from other doctoral students, I wanted to bring those experiences in as well.

And then at the end, um, if you have any questions, I'll be more than happy to answer questions.

So, um, about me, I did win Dissertation of the Year award.

It was such an honor.

And the title of my dissertation was Perceptions of Test Score Pollution, stemming from COVID-19 and State Testing.

And this was an exploratory case study.

Um, as the title suggests, this was an education based, um, study, simply because I have been in education for 24 years now, and I've done everything under the umbrella of education.

Um, when it comes to teaching, I predominantly taught, um, middle and high school, um, science, social studies, and special education.

Then I decided to go into administration, and I did, um, where several different hats actually.

Um, starting from, you know, being a behavior intervention coordinator, athletic director, there are different things to Dean of Students instructional coaching at the university.

And, um, teaching English, um, as a second language learners to adults being in head of Academy, and finally director of virtual curriculum and instruction.

So, it's a variety of experiences, and I wanted to take all of my experiences and, and put that into my, my dissertation when I wrote it.

Um, so with all of those experiences, um, I actually started, um, my education not as an education major, um, but I majored in liberal arts and I specialize in political science economics, and I have a minor in business, so never was it in my dreams that I wanted to be a teacher and educator.

Um, but I got suckered into, um, substitute teaching, and that's where I stuck basically.

Um, so I decided to go and get my master's in leadership and education.

Then I went into administration.

So I went and got my postmas.

And then finally I got my doctoral degree in educational leadership with a special specialization in curriculum instruction.

And, um, I did graduate, um, at the end of May, um, actually defended at the end of May.

So, um, first week of May, um, I apologize.

I defended at the end of April, and I graduated in May.

Um, and in August I actually started a new program.

Um, I'm currently in law schools to obtain my master's in, um, of jurisprudence with specialization in education law, and special education advocacy.

So, while, you know, working for my doctorate, I was like, this is it, you know, I'm gonna finish it.

I realized that, you know, this is not the end of the road for me, and I'm pretty sure it is the same for many of us out there.

You know, learning is, is a journey. I enjoy doing this.

Um, and if you're a doctoral student, I am pretty sure you enjoy learning as well.

I wanna go ahead and, um, say thank you to a few people who, um, truly, um, made a difference, um, within my education in doctoral degree and, and in my dissertation.

Um, Dr. Balk, Dr. Hill, and Dr.

Mazano, they were my, um, committee members.

And, you know, everything they said to me, basically, I soaked, you know, I just basically indulged in everything they said, you, you know,

the feedback they gave me.

And, and I think my paper developed into something beautiful because of their hard work to be, and their, um, input.

Um, Dr. Lang, who, um, was actually my mentor, um, and, and, and a close friend now.

Um, you know, we go back and forth as far as discussing our dissertations.

You know, she graduated six months before me.

So, you know, her help was definitely, you know, made an impact, um, in Dr. Santiago, of course.

Um, now I mentioned these people, I apologize.

I mentioned these people because their work, their feedback, uh, made such a tremendous impact on the way I write, the way I communicate, and what I wanted to do.

That, um, since I defended my paper in April, I was able to actually publish and, and speak at several webinars.

Um, my dissertation, um, was published in American Journal of Qualitative Research.

Um, and this was back in November.

I have two articles, um, in Phoenix Scholar.

One of them just came out, um, and the other one was in collaboration with, um, um, with Dr. Lang and, and different colleagues.

Um, I was able to present at Knowledge Without Boundaries, and also I reached out to Virginia Education Research Association and presented my dissertation, um, at their conference as well.

Um, since my dissertation basically had to do with education within, um, Virginia and all of these things, all of the, um, the, the, the publications, the webinars, the, um, the education background that I just gave you landed me, um, where I am today.

Um, I founded my own, um, educational consulting company where I do editing and, and coaching services predominantly for doctoral students.

Um, also, um, a special educator and a case manager in a very small, um, county.

And I chose to do that because it aligns with what I am studying right now as far as speciali specialization in education law, and special education advocacy.

I do believe that, you know, we need to be, um, practitioner scholars.

So if I'm learning about it, I need to be practicing at the same time.

Um, and that's why I wanted to kind of go back and, and redo special education.

Um, I was fortunate enough to, to become a research fellow at the Center of Leadership for Organizational Research with University of Phoenix.

And, um, after my presentation with Regional Education Research Association, I was able to obtain a position within their board, and I became the secretary.

So, juggling multiple, um, things at this point.

Let's start with my, um, doctoral journey.

I, um, started back in 2017.

You know, it just sounds such a long time ago.

Um, and it was, 'cause when I looked around to, to my colleagues whom I was working with when I first started, they would finish within two or three years.

And, and I'm thinking, I made my plans, I, my made my goals, and my goal was to finish within three years.

So I would go every week, check the schedule to see when I'm taking what class, and, you know, just make notes about it in my little agenda.

Um, but then I quickly find out that life has its own plans for us, you know? So, um, what I found out was I was not able to focus on the coursework and dissertation at the same time.

To me, that was very challenging.

Um, you know, for other students that might be, you know, um, it might be a little bit of a different approach when it comes to like, you know, um, a different experience.

They can step back from their coursework, work on their dissertation.

But I, I think my mind was super a DD because I could not focus on what is it that I wanted to study.

Um, I did change my dissertation topic several times.

Um, and what I finally decided to do was, I need to work on my coursework first, then I need to focus on my dissertation.

Um, and that worked for me.

And when I actually started, we had residencies in Arlington, Virginia.

We no longer have those, and that's how long ago I, I started it in a different program.

I think it was like program three.

Um, and, and now we moved on to Pro Program four.

So I'm not sure if that type of scheduling works for everybody, but that's what worked for me.

I focused on my courses first, and then I could spend all the time that I needed on the dissertation.

Um, along the way, you know, life, as I said, has its own plans for you.

I, you know, lost my father, and then we had Covid, and then I did get Covid.

And, and, and that was a struggle, um, for, for a couple of years for me.

Um, so here I am trying to compete with everybody else because I'm looking around, everybody's finishing their dissertations, getting their doctoral degrees, and I feel like I was just stuck in, in, in one place.

And, and it was frustrating, um, because I, I could not keep going, you know, I couldn't go forward.

Um, but then in 2022, um, I found out I have a chair that was assigned to me, and that was Dr.

Bulk. And we started meeting every week with Dr.

Bulk and his cohort.

And I'm gonna talk a little bit more about that.

But within a year of meeting, you know, having Dr.

Walk and having that network, I was able to finish my dissertation.

Um, what I did learn from it is that everybody's journey is different.

Everybody, um, started at different levels.

They need separate, you know, um, needs as far as their courseworks, their skill sets are very different.

So don't compare your journey to someone else's journey.

It's gonna take you however it's gonna take, um, take you, but you are going to get there.

Um, and, and that's something that was, you know, hard for me to accept because I had a goal in mind.

Um, but I did at the end of it, enjoy the journey.

Enjoy journey. Um, what did I learn from this journey? Well, I learned that organization is number one for doctoral students.

Um, because we have so many things that are go as adult learners, so many things at hand.

You know, you have your life, school, work, family, and everything else that is in between that you were trying to juggle.

Um, I'm gonna start from the last part.

So, I came to terms with the fact that there was going to be so much stuff that I need to give up in my life if I wanted to be successful, which meant, oh, I could not sit in front of Netflix and binge watch whatever I wanted to binge watch, or I could not attend certain activities with friends.

Um, every time I got a text message, my response was, I'm sorry, I have to study today.

Or I'm reading, or I'm writing.

And pretty soon, you know, people around you were like, okay, we're just gonna let her be.

Um, but if you want to be successful, you have to be committed to that.

Um, especially with Dr.

Oberg, it definitely takes a hundred percent of you, if not more.

Um, so with that, creating a schedule and sticking to it is very important.

Um, if you are only going to write on Saturdays for a couple of hours a day and then read on Sundays, and then come back and do editing on Mondays, everybody needs to have their own schedule, you know, that fits their schedule.

But you need to stick to that.

Um, and then the fact that just because you're going at full speed doesn't mean you reach your destination faster.

You know, you, you'll get there when you get there, but, um, you want to take it slow.

You want to learn from the process, and you wanna be able to give back once you're finished.

Sorry, I'm trying to move on. Okay, here you go.

Um, I think this is something that I shared, um, when I presented at, um, knowledge Without Boundaries.

But this sign was actually on my door in my study room.

And I'm gonna read it to you.

It says, stop if this store is closed, I'm writing.

Do not knock disturb or call my name unless it is a life or death situation.

Do not call or text me either, 'cause they would do that.

Do leave me a note, leave food and drink at the door.

Um, I love you all very much.

And, and you know, when we talked about giving up so much, this was, I had to give up so much from the family, Tom, and having to take care of everybody else's needs so that I can focus on the paper that I'm writing.

Um, this is what I had to do.

Um, I had to have a scheduled life.

I had to learn to say no to, to, um, to many of the things.

And I have to know my limits when I reach a situa.

When I reached, you know, writing, um, certain pages and it was frustrating and things were not clicking in my head.

I learned to walk away and then come back to it later.

Um, also asking for help.

Um, academic writing is a whole, you know, different ballgame, basically.

Um, just because we have master's degree does not mean we're proficient in academic writing.

So that was a new skillset that I had to learn.

Um, I had also need to learn how to, you know, research, um, articles and do the snowballing.

Like, where do I go? Who do I ask? These are things that, you know, perhaps as a new, um, doctoral student, we might not be aware or not know.

Um, but there's so many people out there who can help you and willing to help you.

So ask for help 'cause you're not alone, which brings me to networking and that you are not a lone ranger.

Um, as I said, um, stated, I started in 2017, and for five years I was on my own.

And perhaps that was the reason why I struggled so much.

Um, I loved online learning, and I like the fact that I can work it on my own pace.

But, um, there comes a point, especially with the dissertation writing, that you feel so isolated and, and you are in a box by yourself.

But that is not the case.

Um, and it wasn't for, you know, if it wasn't for Dr.

Volk and his cohort.

He meets, um, every week, um, with his students.

And we discussed basically, what are some of the questions we have with our dissertation, how we can improve or like having guest speakers.

So going back and forth and having that network of support was tremendously helpful.

Um, and then, you know, you can, you can send your papers to say, Hey, you read this and you let me know if it makes sense.

Can you guys help me with the problem statement? I'm having these issues, you know, so reach out and, and n network with people.

And, and I wanted to give you some suggestions about that.

So, CDS Central obviously is one place you can come and, and, and, um, these webinars, I know, um, on their EDSS or, um, Saturday sessions, I think, um, that, that are still happening.

Now. Also, library is also another, um, resource where there have webinars that you can join, um, Facebook groups.

Um, you can, you know, join and, and, and chat with other individuals from different universities and see how they're doing, um, their research.

Um, also you can talk with your peers and create a cohort with, within yourselves, within a created group.

Um, even if it's just a support group that you meet, you know, every other week, um, check with your chair to see if your chair actually offers meetings that they're scheduled.

Um, and then also email alumni and instructors.

Um, 'cause everybody is willing to help.

You just need to basically ask for help.

One of the things that I'm also gonna suggest that I did not write in here was, um, my problem statement came from Dr. Middleton, um, who doesn't work for University of Phoenix, but I re I found out where she worked.

I reached out to her and I said, listen, I found what, you know, I what you wrote, intriguing.

I wanna do my study on this.

Can you point me in the right direction? So she was able to support me when it came to my dissertation as well, and guide me in the right direction as far as resources.

So, um, you know, when you reading those articles, reach out to them.

There is a, um, you know, at the bottom of each article how you can communicate with the, with the, um, authors do.

So because they're willing to help, um, topic selection.

Okay. Um, definitely reflect on your professional and personal experiences.

Um, but I'm going to caution, um, for, um, bias versus like truly, um, having a desire to inquire about a topic.

Just because you are passionate does not also mean that there's a gap in research.

So you want to be very careful when it comes to what is it that you want to study.

Um, identify your, your, um, gaps in your research and, and your passion does not translate that it is going to be a significant study.

So be able to support why the study is going to be important.

Why should the research be conducted? Basically, um, academic writing.

This book right here, I said a PA, uh, I don't know if you guys can see me, but read the a PA manual, not just the reference pages, um, where there has examples, but the mechanics of writing.

Because if you were to, if you read this, it is going to save you so much time and headache when it comes to, um, editing your paper.

When it comes to feedback.

Um, I guarantee you, if you spend some time on this a PA manual and read it, your papers will not bleed.

Um, the other thing is going to be the dissertation guide given to you by University of Phoenix.

Um, be very familiar with e with the guide and what the expectations are.

Always refer to it and check it frequently after you finish a chapter, for example, or given a section, go back to the guide and check to see if you have included everything that they're asking for.

Um, and with that, I'm going to also encourage that you go back and read other people's dissertations as well and see how they compare to the dissertation guide.

And the last thing is, um, the line by line editing, it is not your committee member's responsibility to complete a line by line edit.

What does that mean? Um, it means that they can look at your paper and point out certain things here and there, but it is your job as a writer to read every line to make sure that it complies with a PA to make sure that it actually makes sense and that you use proper references or you use an academic tone.

Um, one of the things that I would, you know, um, Dr.

Balk for example, is would say is, you know, I'm just gonna point out here, but it's your job to go back and review your entire paper to make sure, um, that you don't repeat this mistake.

And, and your paper is like a hundred and some pages.

Yes, it is your responsibility, but I tell you what, when you do your own line by line editing, you become a better writer.

You learn from it, and you, you take it all in.

So have that learn to have that keen eye for those things that they point out.

Um, and it will save you a lot of headache in the future.

So since we're discussing writing, um, if you are not a strong writer and, um, which I was not, definitely, I'm gonna suggest taking a writing class, um, before you start your dissertation writing.

Um, you can also work with a coach and work with oth with other peers to see, um, how your writing is developing.

But I would definitely suggest, um, to take some type of academic writing course before you sit down because you don't want to repeat, um, 7 23, 7 41, you know, whatever class it is because of your writing.

Um, 'cause I mean, it is going to cost you a lot more money down the road.

Um, the editing, when you get feedbacks, uh, go ahead and edit and correct as you move through the paper.

Do not just put it off until the end of the chapter.

Um, if you see a mistake in one place, check for it in every, like, all through your paper to make sure that you make those corrections.

Um, 'cause you will forget if you put it off.

You will forget to make those edits.

Um, so edit as you move along.

Um, the other thing is like, read, read, read.

Um, the more you read, the more you read academic journals, the better custom you're going to be.

Um, when it comes to academic language, academic writing language, you'll pick up certain phrases.

Um, you will see the meal plan basically in action.

So I'm going to suggest that you go ahead and read.

The more you read, the better writer you'll become.

And also, um, just like athletes sit down and watch films of the games, look at other dissertations, check to see how certain sections are written in other dissertations.

And, um, the libraries actually have, um, a, you know, a list of basically dissertations that you can find comparable to your research and methodology and design even, um, topics that, that might be similar to yours.

And, um, and, and even by the range that, I mean, the year that they were defended.

So take advantage of those and, and review those things.

Also, keep in mind when you're writing, there's a difference between conversational tone versus academic.

What do I mean by that? Conversational tone.

Something, uh, students should be reviewing their classes every other day.

You know, that that's a commerce, that's a, you know, it's a conversation tone.

It's not formal. Um, so there is a difference between conversations on academic tone and the academic tone is when you read more research on papers, you will pick that tone up very quickly and be able to change it within your writing.

Also, know the difference between acceptable references, for example.

Dissertations are not acceptable references for your own dissertation.

Um, they should not be used in your dissertation.

Um, or, you know, going to a certain website and just picking things out of a website and putting them as your reference, then, you know, those are not acceptable either.

So make sure you know the differences as far as your, um, your references.

Two things I always say, and, and notice in papers is who says, so what? So when you write a sentence, be ensure that you're able to support the claim.

So who said it? Which means you need to provide citation for it, right? And then, so what is, so how does it connect to your, your study? How does it prove your point? So keep those things in mind when you're writing that, you should answer who says.

And so what, um, using tables, I love tables 'cause I'm a visual learner.

But if it can be explaining a paragraph and, and I'm pretty sure your chair and your PV will say the same thing explaining in a paragraph rather than just putting tables into your, um, dissertation.

And when you do use tables, shake the a PA for the style, um, because it is different, um, than, you know, just clicking on the word and inserting a table.

Um, also the figures, again, visual people, um, should be saved for the appendix section.

But again, your chairs might have some, you know, something else to say about that.

But I will, you know, definitely, um, check with them.

Um, figures should be saved for appendix.

Um, I'm gonna move this real quick. Data analysis tools.

One thing that I wish that I had done this for myself when I was working on my dissertation is getting to know the data analysis tools.

Uh, and I listed several of them here.

I'm only familiar with, um, in vi in Vivo Quick Course and Excel, um, which I've used.

Um, but had I known certain features of Enviva, for example, I might have, you know, I could have used them in my dissertation and how I provided my data.

So if you play around with the data analysis tools, I think that will be make you a better writer, especially for chapter three when you explain how you're going to analyze your data, and then it's going to save you a lot more time when you are ready to analyze it.

So definitely spend some time look to see which ones are, um, user friendly.

'cause not all of them are user friendly.

And check out, um, to see which ones offer free trials as well.

Um, if you are purchasing them, they do have student pricing, so you want to check for those ai.

Oh, now I love Grammarly and I have it, you know, um, basically, um, uploaded everywhere on my computer, but be very careful with ai.

Um, I have not used chat GPT, but I, I do know that it's very unpopular.

Um, and Grammarly something that is widely used, um, and Grammarly, um, was the reason why I had to go back and take out 546 that's out of my dissertation, because Dr. Hill was like, no, no, no.

Um, be very careful with, with any AI programs, simply because, um, they don't know the meal plan that is expected of you when you're writing your dissertation.

Okay? So you are responsible of that and they don't know your content.

And just because they're suggesting something does not mean it actually makes sense.

Um, so definitely read what you're writing and look at the suggestions.

And, and while you know, I do suggest, yeah, go ahead and use them, um, as a resource, but they should not be doing the writing for you.

Um, 'cause at the end of the day, you are going to defend your paper and your dissertation.

Um, and if it doesn't make sense, um, it doesn't make sense.

This is one thing that I've noticed, and I know it was a challenging area for me in chapter two.

Um, the methodology literature, what I, um, what I thought, what it was, I, you know, I will go research and just summarize the research and, and it will just be a collection of summary of research, um, that might be related to my, um, research that I'm doing.

But in essence, it is how were, um, comparable research conducted, you know, that is similar to your, um, your topic.

Basically look for similarities and differences in methodology.

Look at how they use their population, their data collection analysis.

Don't just summarize, um, don't just provide a summary of different articles or, uh, um, different research, but make sure that you're able to provide the similarities and differences when it comes to your research.

Um, as far as method and design.

So when we put it all together, don't get discouraged.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Um, and, and practice makes perfect.

So the feedback that you get on your pay, don't take it personal.

Okay? Um, nobody's personally attacking you when you get that red ink.

Um, it is only to make you a better writer.

I highly suggest that you communicate with your community members, um, if you have questions, concerns, um, and don't put it off.

Um, and the, the other thing with regards to writing is read it out loud.

Sometimes when we hear what we wrote, we might pick up things that don't really make sense or something that you, you know, you wanted to add.

So, you know, get in habit of reading out loud.

It also makes you a better, um, presenter, I guess when it comes to defending your dissertation.

Um, when you're writing your paper on your paper, the navigation panel, if you're not familiar with that, you want to look at that, um, in, in the, in Word documents.

Okay? Organize your paper with subheadings within the navigation panel.

Um, and that way you can visually see how you, how you divided up your paper.

Um, and you can, um, basically read, summarize, and place your j um, your readings under those subheadings.

One thing that I'm gonna caution is when you open up Word, the subheadings are not to the, um, the a PA format that we have.

Okay? So you need to go ahead and, uh, there are a whole bunch of videos on YouTube how you, how to do that.

But you need to put it into the a PA format, um, use IRB.

Now, you're going to be, um, asked, you're going to be asked, they're gonna ask you a lot of questions, very specific questions with regards to how you're going to conduct your research.

The feedback that you get from IRB, use that to make your paper better.

Um, be very specific with your answers.

And if you have not had the chance to create a sample document just so that you can see or sample project, just so you can see what kind of questions they're going to ask you do so, so become familiar with that because just by looking at those questions, you can actually design your chapter three.

'cause you wanna be able to answer those questions in your chapter three as well.

Okay? Um, so definitely use IRB.

And my last slide is, success comes when you wake up every day in that never ending pursuit of why we do what we do, our achievements, what we do serve as the milestones to indicate we are on the right path.

With that, I wanna thank you and remember, it is one step at a time and my contact information, if you have questions for me, I'll be more than happy to answer questions and assist.

And I wanna thank you for your time.

Thank you so much for taking us through your journey with such an interesting and beautifully graphically arranged, uh, presentation.

Um, I, I would like to ask anybody to ask questions, but I had one that I just wanted to just seek if I could understand how you managed to find the topic.

You mentioned some, and I found in your dissertation there's a acknowledgement about some Middleton could, could some lady a Middleton Uhhuh is the name Uhhuh.

Yes. And I just wondered, how did you come across that and how did you actually reach out and find her? Um, so I, it, you know, I was just reading a lot of, um, journals, ba journal articles, basically.

And, and I came up, um, with her article.

At that point, I was not even sure what topic I was going to write about.

Um, so when I read hers, the wheels basically started turning.

Um, and then she talked about, you know, test score pollution, which to be honest with you, it really was not widely research topic.

Um, I mean, it was research when we first started, um, achievement, the achievement standards back in the 1990s, but it was not, you know, recently, um, researched.

And when Covid hit and the school shut down, that's when she started writing about it again.

Um, because students still had to take the, at the, the end of the year assessments basically.

Um, so I actually, I googled, I googled to find out where she was, and, and found out her, um, her institution and then emailed her and she kindly responded back.

And when I won Dissertation of the year award, I actually reached out again to thank her and she was very happy.

Um, and, and, you know, and it's all about, you know, trying to make an impact and making an impact in somebody's life and being able to assist.

And that's, you know, if you going through your doctoral work, you definitely wanna be able to, you know, use your power to help somebody out.

That's so fascinating because, um, what I do with the first Year access program is, uh, help students to get started with their, what's a dissertation? And one of the big parts is to try to identify a topic that would be suitable.

And so many people just sort of, they're lost.

There's what, you know, where do I begin? And you are such a, a logical person.

I mean, you're right, um, with the, uh, journal articles, a lot of times it'll have the name of the author and it has an email like contact, but to actually move forward from looking at it and saying, yeah, look at that, that's contact information.

And to actually reach out to a person that's, um, extremely, um, it's logical, but yet it's, uh, something that I often don't think of doing.

And I think a lot of other people might not be able to go from, that's a good idea to actually, you know, um, executing the idea, not like, um, eliminating somebody like a shoot 'em a a sundown, but to actually take an idea and go into action with it.

So that's wonderful. Thank you so much for sharing that.

Yeah. Yeah. And I wanted to, any, any of the participants who are good here, you've been writing so many kind thoughts in the chat, but this would be a great opportunity if you wanted to unmute yourself, please feel free.

Your voice counts. Thank you, Dr. Oh, Kate Wheeler.

I, I was gonna ask a question.

If your URM comes back and he edits your paper and he puts a lot of that THAT and, and you know, it shouldn't be in there, who do you follow? Um, I would definitely, um, that that's a committee decision, to be honest with you.

Um, my pv, um, you know, Dr. Hill, uh, is a wonderful writer.

And when, when, um, I had questions I asked Dr. Hill, um, your chair will, you know, ultimately make the decision about, you know, how your paper should go and your and your PV should, you know, give you recommendations to.

But I will open the, to be honest with you, open the question to my entire committee members, um, because, you know, come coming from an older generation, I mean, I do know I, I looked at some papers that were done at my college that I graduated my batch of science, and I did see a lot of that that was used at that time.

So maybe the older generation, maybe we've got a gap there.

Uh, you know, it could be just that, you know, um, PV or whoever it was, you know, it is.

Um, but I know from my pv, Dr. Hill, who's a, who's a wonderful writer to be honest, um, you know, whatever she said I was willing to do, she said, you know, jump, I will just say, ha ha basically.

Um, so take their advice as to what is it that they want you to do, because here's the thing, when this is your dissertation, right? So you are bound by what your committee members tell you.

Um, but once you finish your dissertation and you're done with your degree, you can go ahead and write your paper and, and publish it, um, in any way that you want.

I would say. However, you'll still get feedback for, uh, you know, when you're trying to write your manuscript and you submit it, you're still going to get feedback about, you know, corrections and things like that.

Um, when it comes to, you know, um, recommendations, um, I always made it a habit to ask the question to my entire committee rather than just one person.

Um, because you wanna get everybody's input.

And so that it also eliminates well, so and so said, and so and so said, you know, it eliminates that problem as well.

That answer your question. Okay.

Thank you so much. That's wise.

Um, getting the entire committee is a good way to begin.

And, um, I've had some meetings with, uh, people about, sometimes there's conflicts and you get all kinds of information, but one recurring theme seems to be with the dissertation, um, the chair, um, and unless they defer to somebody else, um, to help you with your dissertation, get through so you get done and, and can move on with your life, um, sometimes, uh, deferring to the chair is, is, is the possibility, unless it really goes against your, um, you, you feel that you are being wronged and then you can take it to a higher level.

But, um, the idea is to try to get consensus, get your dissertation approved.

And then as Dr.

Leaf mentioned, um, you can go out and you can publish it in journals, but like you, as you said, um, there are reviewers and they

have peer reviewers, and they come back with these comments.

And again, you have to explain a lot of times they always say, you don't have to do these things.

But then if you could explain why you're not, so, if you were trying to publish your dissertation as a manuscript and a journal, and you got some feedback that you felt, um, you disagreed with, instead of just saying, I won't do that.

Um, I found, 'cause I've had been in situations I couldn't do it, you know, it was like, change the study.

No. So I would just say, thank you very much for this, uh, the gift of your feedback, famous phrase.

But, um, then explain how this would require, um, a change that cannot be made or the reason why you aren't doing it.

Because you used this kind of an approach.

You modeled it on a, perhaps an article that was already in their journal, and you got approval from another editor.

And so you made this, um, manuscript based on these parameters.

And to change that would be something that you didn't feel was appropriate, as long as it's important to be respectful and come up with some reason why.

And I've, I've, man, I've managed to get away with some of the things that peer reviewers, 'cause I had something myself and, um, was, I was part of three people.

We wrote this, and one of the recommendations the reviewer wrote, if, if the, if the editor wanted to maintain the, um, integrity and the reputation of the journal, they shouldn't publish this manuscript.

And I thought, wow, you know, that's really hard to come up with.

But I did. I thought, okay, um, you know, what do I have to lose? We so say is we're not gonna publish it.

We'll go somewhere else. But anyway, I then said, we had based it on a, an article that was another one that had just been published three months earlier.

So we based, it was that kind of a review.

We had gotten approval from the person who was supervising this submission.

And I felt that it was well done in the spirit of those guidelines.

And I think that if that previous article had been published in the journal, there was no reason to, um, feel that our article would somehow disqualify the journal from, you know, critical thinkers ever reading it again.

And, uh, I was grateful that whoever was the final decision maker, he went with our journal our article and, and published it.

But you never know what people are gonna say.

And I think at least what I tried to do is be respectful.

And also, I have found that, um, sometimes if you get a lot of conflicting feedback, if, and you need to comply with all of it, if you

can highlight the different ones, like the panel validator in yellow and the methodologist in blue, and maybe the chair in green and say, I've made all these changes to, uh, go along with your, uh, recommendations.

So now, um, I need to get some kind of consensus so we can get it approved.

And that way at least it doesn't, it shows that you read their feedback and you are trying, and that a lot of times that might help.

But that's just me. Thank you again for, uh, raising that issue.

Mm-Hmm. Anyone else? Great job. That's all I got to say.

Dr. Thank you, Dr. Wallace.

I, I'm also looking to see if there, Uh, Vic, there's a Victoria with your hand.

You're so polite. Please feel free to ask.

Hi. Um, I'm in the beginning stages, I'm gonna call it because I'm honestly, um, clueless.

After you started saying that you kept looking at your academic schedule Mm-Hmm.

Um, and then afterwards you said that that's when you started your dissertation after you focused on your academic, um, classes.

And you lost me there because I thought that the program automatically puts you in the courses that should follow each other so that you can build and, um, start organizing in that order.

Mm-Hmm. So am I looking at it incorrectly? Should I be speaking with my advisor more? No, no, no. Um, so, um, like I mentioned, when I began in 2017, I was under a different program.

So the courses that I need to take were a little bit different than the new programs right now.

Um, but, um, essentially, for example, my residency one and residency two, that is actually where we went to work in our, um, dissertations.

Um, so that is something different than, um, what is in place right now.

Um, and I stuck with the old program, and if there's a, anyone out there who is familiar with both of the programs, maybe you'd be able to explain it.

Um, so because I was under the old program when I started and I decided to stick with the old program, um, I was able to make changes, um, where I saved my, you know, doc 7 23 and all 7 41.

All the dissertation was to, um, towards the end of my, my journey and just get everything else out the way.

But that depends. Yeah.

Um, okay. I I, I get it because I got a little nervous.

I'm thinking, do I have to double time it and start doing two things at one time? And I'm already doing seven, so I just got a little nervous. Oh, wow. Okay.

You did seven classes right now? Is that what you said? Absolutely not. I'm just joking. No. Oh no.

But, um, of course work, school, family, as you said. Sure.

Yes. Um, I don't know how I'm supposed to shut all of that off just yet.

Mm-Hmm. Um, but I, I'm sure I'm gonna have to get there eventually.

Right now I'm just in, um, uh, class, uh, seven 14, which is the organization and, um, or after selecting the methodology and all of that stuff, so I'm not even this far, but I take these courses to try to calm my nerves. Right.

See, and, and that is very different.

'cause when I started, you know, that seven 14 basically was handled within residency.

Um, like we would go to a residency for a week, sit down and, and work on our papers.

So that is very different.

Um, but I would, you know, you know, you might wanna talk with, um, your professors who, you know, who who'd been at the, um, university for a while.

Um, they might be able to give you some more advice and definitely your academic, um, counselor. But yeah. Good luck.

Yeah. Thank you so much. Mm-Hmm.

And we have two more courteous people with your hands up.

Um, Judith, um, you're in the top, so I'll just start with you if that's all right.

Okay. Thank you so much. Um, let me start off by thanking Dr. Wheeler for Thank you.

A, a very clear presentation for me.

Coming at the right time with all information is very informative.

Thank you. I'm actually a doctorate student in my fourth year, and I am actually in the program, uh, like which combined the core courses and building onto the dissertation.

Mm-Hmm. And I really commend Phoenix University for such a program.

Mm-Hmm. Because combining the two, it guided me through to come up even with a research topic and, um, the stage by stage mm-Hmm.

The courses helping me developing my, my dissertation.

I, I also liked your input as it relates to the chair, the advisors, the URM, and taking those comments in and building them in.

And, uh, yeah, I found this, um, I was debating because of time challenges where they should attend this, um, uh, this, uh, this webinar or this zoom, and I found that I really, you know, sacrificed, uh, worthwhile to be able to attend and to learn from how your experience was.

So thank you. Thank you so much. Yeah.

I appreciate, thank you.

Thank you so much. And now, um, Gina. Gina, thank you.

Yes. Hi, Dr. Wheeler, how you Hi, Gina.

Thank You. You're the best. I like your presentation.

Thank you. Uh, so I just wanted to speak to, uh, two of the things that you said.

So first of all, I started my program 55 years ago, a long, long time ago.

And I did go to the residencies and, uh, we worked on our concept paper then.

And it was developed a long time ago, let's just say more than five years ago.

So when I sort of got into this, I took a break, and when I came back, they had re uh, designed the entire program.

I couldn't necessarily pick up where I left off.

And they said, well, uh, you know, you don't have to take DOC seven 15 because you already have a concept paper.

I said, great, cool. I save money, right? So I jumped into Doc 7 23.

But speaking to your point about quality of writing, every single step of what we do in this program, at every stage, every level of collaboration, every time we sit down to write, read, everything that we take in makes us a better writer.

So when I thought, okay, I have a concept paper already, and I tried to go back to use it, but number one, the references were outdated.

So that was that. Yeah.

And number two, even for courses that I took, I said, oh, great, I have this and that, but the writing was so bad.

I said, how did I get away with this? And I said, I can't, I can't even justifiably use it for myself.

Like, you know, the writing was just at a different level.

And I'm not saying I'm an expert now, but you know, the point is that you do grow as you do each.

And everything that we do as we move through the process makes us better, better as students, better as people.

'cause we persevere, better writers, all of it.

So I just wanted to put that in there because I came from the old program Yeah. Into the program.

You know, Gina, I I agree with you.

You know, um, even, you know, having completed my courses and in all of the paperwork and papers that required, the writing for the dissertation is completely different than writing for those assignments.

Of course. Yeah. Um, it, it is, it is a completely different, um, I think ball game and, and yeah.

Um, but it did, you know, ultimately every, everything that we've done, um, I think made, made me a better writing, uh, writer as far as like taking the feedback.

But, um, I don't think I was ready for the dissertation writing just by taking the courses and, and doing my assignments.

Right. No, that, it's a totally different ballgame For sure. Mm-Hmm.

And I know how to say your full last name, but I don't wanna do people just in case I Get it wrong.

I appreciate you. Thank you, Gina.

Well, again, I wanna thank you all for taking the time to be here, and thank you Dr. Wheeler for taking the time to share these insights.

And, um, this has been recorded. Dr.

Stella, are you still there? Well, if, uh, I'm gonna not record. Yes. I'm still there.

Oh, okay. Very good. Because I was gonna say, uh, the recording, we usually upload it to the event calendar on the research hub for those who may not have been able to attend.

So I just wanted to make sure that that was still happening.

Yes. That and then if, um, Dr. Wheeler provides permission, a copy of the PowerPoint as well Sure.

As a PDF, is that okay? Absolutely, Yes. All right. Perfect.

Wonderful. Both of those will be in the event calendar.

Thank you so much for have having me.

And you know, it's a humbling experience to be here and I really enjoyed it.

Um, and everybody else, thank you so much for coming out and listening and asking questions. I really appreciate you, You, everyone. Thank you for a Spectacular webinar.

It was wonderful. Thank you. Thank you.

Everyone who filled out the feedback survey, Eventbrite is also gonna send you the link, so if you've already done it, don't worry about doing it again.

If you haven't done it though, we would love to get your feedback about the session.

This is a alumni student development webinar.

Um, so I know that might not make sense now, but when you start the survey, it's gonna ask you that question.

So, um, make sure to select that so that we can get this feedback about Dr.

Uh, Wheeler's amazing presentation. So thank you all.

I'm gonna stop the recording now. Okay. Thank you.