

Connecting the doctoral dots

By Vanessa W. Snyder

Let me preface this by saying I don't have time to write a blog. I am working on a doctorate degree and I have a fulltime job, so there really is no time for this kind of indulgence or distraction.

However, it occurs to me that I should capture this doctoral experience (which I pray will be over soon), because I'm learning so much about myself and I miss writing – non-academic writing that is. I am fully aware this is probably a work avoidance technique, i.e. procrastination from doing the writing I should be doing.

That said, there's so much I can say about this doctoral experience. But for my first post, I will share these:

EGO. One must have an ego to pursue a doctorate. There it is; I said it. Why else would I be doing this? Sure, I will make more money (possibly). But ultimately, underneath it all, there must be a raging egomaniac.

YOU WILL FEEL DUMBER BEFORE YOU FEEL SMARTER. Do you have any idea how unsmart I feel at various points when I'm reading, writing and researching? So again, you better have an ego because your ego will get bruised, stomped on and twisted.

IT'S A PROCESS. The thing about getting a doctorate is that it's all process. Cliché I know. But there are no shortcuts or workarounds. I've tried to find them. They don't exist. You just have to go through the process: research, write, submit, feedback, and repeat. The order might vary a bit and there are other steps in between, but you're basically in that insane loop.

YOU ARE LEARNING. Only over the past few years have I accepted my nerdism. I don't think I look like a nerd and I never identified myself as one, but I fully embrace it now. I like this kind of learning. The kind that gets into theories and concepts and why people behave the way they do. You actually are learning as you go through the doctoral research process. With each article, abstract, essay, study or book that's read, you learn a little bit more. And for me that's what's exciting. Even though I want to be done, I am learning so much. And it's weirdly fun.

Next time we can talk about how I fell into this doctoral journey. It wasn't planned.

For now, let me find another distraction.