

Research Acronyms

By Marilyn K. Simon and Jim Goes

Includes excerpts from Simon & Goes (2013), *Dissertation and Scholarly Research: Recipes for Success*. Seattle, WA: Dissertation Success LLC

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An acronym is an abbreviation formed from the initial components in a phrase or a word. Acronyms are viewed as a subtype of blending words. Acronyms exist in almost every profession as well as in every day conversations. *Dissertation Recipes* uses numerous acronyms to summarize key components for doctoral students.

Here are some more acronyms that have been provided by astute students of Simon and Goes:

Farrugia, Petrisor, Farrokhyar, and Bhandari (2010) use the acronym "**FINER**" to help test if a topic is appropriate for scholarly research. This acronym stands for:

F-Feasible in money, efforts, and scope
I-Interesting to an audience, educationally, and beyond
N-Novel in reading all that refers to the research topic
E-Ethical in research
R-Relevant to society, profession, and future research

Farrugia, et al also use "**PICOT**" to help formulate the purpose of a study:

P-Population
I-Investigation
C-Comparison
O-Outcome
T-Time

Another student noted that we need to make certain that when writing we are on the right **BOAT**:

B -Balanced
O- Objective
A-Accurate
T- Tentative

Farrugia, P., Petrisor, B., Farrokhyar, F. & Bhandari, M. (2010). Research questions, hypotheses and objectives. *Canadian Journal of Surgery*, 53(4), 278-281. Retrieved from www.nih.gov.