By *real*, I always mean that which is such as it is whatever you or I or any
generation of men may opine or otherwise think that it is. There must not be
any confusion between reality and exteriority[.] [T]hat is real which is as it is no
matter what one may think *about it*. The external is that which is as it is
whatever one may think about *anything*. No doubt there are grades of reality,
meaning that objects of signs may yield with more or less resistance to opinion
or other representation. According to the definition absolute resistance is
essential to reality. But an approach to reality, something that is not in the
slightest of the nature of pretense is found wherever an object of thought is
sufficiently obstinate to enable us to say, it has *not* these characters, but it
does have these.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1906 [c.]). *On Existential Graphs as an Instrument of Logical
Research*. MS [R] 498.

**References:** MS [R] 498

**Date of Quote:** 1906 [c.]

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-existential-graphs-instrument-logical-research-1