



ACTION RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

"If you don't measure it, how will you improve it?"

Instructor: Dr. B. Darlene Spurlock

Action Research



Why Should You do Action Research?



For Your Professional Growth

For Your Personal Learning

Allows You to Live Up to Your “Why”

Creates the Change You Want to See in the World

Action Research

Why Action Research in Education?



- Solves a Real-time Educational Problem
- Enacts immediate change in an educational practice
- Explore and test new ideas, methods or resources
- Carried out by educators: typically team research – can be but should not be done in solitude

Action Research



Why Action Research in Education?

- Action research is typically done by educators who are actively seeking new policies, programs, or resources to empower those groups (students or teachers) in need. For example:
 - Students who are retained
 - Students with disabilities
 - ELL/ESL students
 - Underprepared students
 - Nontenured teachers
 - Other gap group students
 - Any other group, class, school, or district population



Action Research

Why Action Research in Education?

Get it?

Do you now see how this course and Action Research are tied together?



Action Research

Why Action Research in Education?

**Injustice
Low Performance
UnMet Goals
Negative Perceptions**



**Action Research
Systems Thinking
Plan-Do-Study-Act
Data Analysis**



**Continuous
Improvement**

Action Research

Who Benefits?

- The Classroom Teacher
- Populations or Student Groups
 - Classroom
 - School
 - District
 - Statewide



Action Research



Who Should Be on Your Research Team?

- Students
- Teachers
- School Staff
- Administrators
- Parents
- Community Stakeholders



Action Research

Scope of Action Research

- Practices related to Academic Performance
- Practices related to Student Behavior
- Practices related to Teacher Behavior
- Practices or Conditions related to School Climate
- Practices related to Curricula

Action Research

For Contemplation...

Action research is a form of investigation designed for use by teachers to attempt to solve problems and improve professional practices in their own classrooms.

- *Parsons and Brown (2002)*

Action Research



For Contemplation...

Action Research is a fancy way of saying let's study what's happening at our school and decide how to make it a better place.

- *Emily Calhoun (1994)*

Action Research

For Contemplation...

Action research is a natural part of teaching. Teachers are continually observing students, collecting data and changing practices to improve student learning and the classroom and school environment.

- A. Christine Miller (2007)

Action Research

Success Criteria

You will find a rubric for your research project module. Download it and Save it!

Locate Taskstream to find your project rubric and field log.

Be sure to purchase your TaskStream Subscription

Action Research

Action Research Process



1. Selecting a focus
2. Clarifying theories/Review Professional Literature
3. Identifying research questions
4. Collecting/Analyzing data
5. Reporting results
6. Taking informed action

“Rinse & Repeat” using Action Research to Assess Effects

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

1. Selecting an Area, Issue, or Focus

- a. Identifying a Problem or Something to Improve
- b. Focus on students
- c. Look at both immediate and cumulative effects

Selecting a focus begins with the teacher researcher or the team of action researchers asking: *What element(s) of our practice or what aspect of student learning do we wish to investigate?*

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

2a. Clarifying Theories/Literature Review

- a. Identify your values and beliefs
- b. Identify the theoretical perspectives of researchers
- c. Review related professional literature
- d. Synthesize your literature

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

2b. Clarifying Theories/ Literature Review

- a. Identify professional literature that relates to or matches the interest
- b. Gather research reports, research syntheses, articles, videotapes, etc.
- c. Analyze and interpret these materials for understanding and action
- d. Determine the most promising actions

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

3. Identifying Research Questions

- a. Select an interesting relevant topic
- b. Do some preliminary research on your topic
- c. Generate a set of personally meaningful, focused and open-ended research questions to guide your project inquiry.

gap. Therefore, the purpose of this action research will explore how bringing outdoor education into the curriculum will impact behaviors, such as motivation and concentration, and the well-being of students in the primary classroom.

Action Research

➤ 5 Phases of Action Research

3. Identifying Research Questions (Examples)

- What strategies can I use in my self-contained classroom during math that will allow me to meet the needs of my advanced, grade level and low performing students?
- Can an improvement in student scores on summative assessments be accomplished without significantly increasing planning time?
- Which strategy or combinations of strategies when used result in an improvement in the consistency and quantity of growth each student experiences as measured by comparing a unit's pre-assessment and the unit's summative assessment?

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

4a. **Collecting** > Organizing > Analyzing Data

Action researchers can accomplish this by making sure that the data used to justify their actions are **valid** (meaning the information represents what the researchers say it does) and **reliable** (meaning the researchers are confident about the accuracy of their data).

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

4a. Collecting > Organizing > Analyzing Data

Most teacher researchers use a process called *triangulation* to enhance the validity and reliability of their findings. Basically, triangulation means using multiple independent sources of data to answer one's questions.

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

4a. **Collecting** > Organizing > Analyzing Data

- a. Collect existing archival data
- b. Use additional multiple data sources
- c. Collect data regularly
- d. Promote collective ownership of data
- e. Monitor data collection

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Types of Research & Data

QUANTITATIVE



Scientific / Statistical
Objective
Deductive
Small Sample Size (1-15)

Examples: Standardize Tests
Aggregates of responses from
surveys, counts, measures, etc.

QUALITATIVE



Relational / Interpretive/
Subjective
Inductive
Large Sample Size

Examples: Interviews, Surveys,
Observations, Narratives,
Focus Groups, Field Notes

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Types of Research & Data

QUANTITATIVE



QUALITATIVE



Mixed Methodology Uses Both Types of Research Design and Data

Action Research

Data Collection Techniques

Experiencing



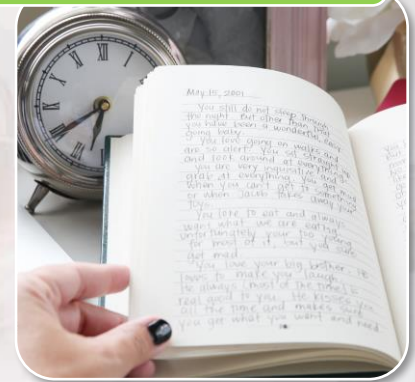
Observations

Enquiring



Interviews
Questionnaires
Scales
Standardized Tests

Examining



Archival Docs
Journals/ Notes
Maps
Audio/Video
Artifacts

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

4b. Collecting > **Organizing** > Analyzing Data

- a. Count instances, events, and artifacts
- b. Display data in tables and charts
- c. Arrange data by classroom, grade level, and school
- d. Organize for analysis

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

4c. Collecting > Organizing > **Analyzing** Data

- a. Analyze and question the data as a professional collective
- b. Decide what can be celebrated and what needs attention
- c. Determine priority area(s) for action

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5 Phases of Action Research

5. Reporting Results

- a. Narrate a summary of your data analysis as it relates to your research questions.
- b. If you have multiple research questions, be sure to address each one with your narrative of your findings.

Action Research

5 Phases of Action Research

6. Making Recommendations/Taking Action

- a. Combine data analysis with that from professional literature
- b. Select best options for action
- c. Craft short- and long-term action plans
Implement some actions immediately
- d. Assess implementation of selected actions – this keeps improvement continuous.

Action Research

Bibliography

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Contact Me



Questions & Discussion

Dr. B. Darlene Spurlock
Darlene.Spurlock@eku.edu

