Welcome

Why Action Research

Questions???

What is Research?

Jigsaw Reading

What is Action Research?

5 Steps of Action Research

Metaphor

Evaluation
Step 1 - Problem Identification:
- Why do you want to do study this topic?
- Is the problem broad enough to allow for a range of insights and findings? Is it narrow enough to be manageable?

Step 2 - Plan of Action
- Will you develop and implement a new strategy or approach to address your question?
- What data do you need to learn about your question?

Step 3 - Data Collection
- What, why, when, where, and how will you collect your data?
- How will you ensure that you have multiple perspectives?

Step 4 - Analysis of Data
- What can you learn from the data?
- What patterns, insights, and new understandings can you find?

Step 5 - Plan for Future Action
- What will you do differently in your classroom as a result of this study?
- How will you write about what you have learned so that the findings will be useful to you and to others?
Step 1: Problem Identification

To begin the action research process, identify the focus.

Determine the area of teaching and learning that you want to explore. The focus should be on an area over which you have some control and you would like to change or improve.

Describe the situation you want to change.

Why do you want to change it?

What specifically would you like to try?

Identify the questions that need to be answered.

Starting points-
I would really like to improve...
I am perplexed by...
Some people are unhappy about...
I’m curious about...
I want to learn more about...
An idea I would like to try out in my class is...
Something I think would really make a difference is...
Something I would like to do to change is...
Rome now, some areas I am particularly interested in are...

Guidelines for Developing a Question-
One that hasn’t already been answered
Higher level questions which get at explanations, reasons, relationships
Not yes-no
Everyday language, avoid jargon
Not too lengthy, concise
Manageable, doable in the context of your work
Follow your passion, meaningful
Keep close to your practice and provides opportunity to stretch
Question leads to other questions

Example:
Area of Focus: Reading
Question: How will using technology improve student’s reading vocabulary?

Area of Focus: Parental Involvement
Question: What strategies will result in more parents attending parent-teacher conferences?
Step 2: Organizing a Plan of Action / Step 3: Collect the Data

* Will you develop and implement a new strategy or approach to address your question? Is there a new curriculum, instructional strategy you are interested in? Have you implemented a change and you want to document results?

* What data do you need to learn about your question?

Data collection is the gathering of information to answer the research question. Data may be collected from a variety of sources. Using more than one source will increase the credibility of any conclusions.

**Triangulation**
Just as a stool is most solid sitting on a foundation of 3 legs, your data will be more solid and five you more information if you collect it from more than one source, at more than one point in time. Any combination of the below:

3 *Different Methods*: breadth, depth, corroboration
   - Breadth: questionnaire, survey
   - Depth: interview
   - Corroboration: observations, checklists, artifacts, videotapes

3 *Different Perspectives*: you, students, other staff, parents

3 *Different Time Periods*: fall, winter, spring

Data sources may include:

- Test results
- Observations
- Surveys
- Interview
- Student records
- Portfolios
- Videos
- Artifacts
- Journals
- Shadowing
- Checklists
Make sense of the drawer full of data to answer the question “so what?”.

1. Organize using webs, graphs, charts, numbers etc.
   *Sort
   *Sift
   *Discard
   *Catalogue

2. Make observations about the data. Non-judgmental statements of facts.
   *Search for themes and patterns
   *Ask questions
   *Look for gaps
   *Display the data

3. Interpret and summarize and describe the findings.

4. Share the results.
Now that you have analyzed your data...

* What have you learned?

* How do you feel about what you have learned?

* How do your conclusions differ from what you thought you would learn?

* Do the conclusions seem believable?

* What actions might you take based on your conclusions?

* What new questions emerge for you from the data?

* Who else might be interested in these conclusions?

* What are strategies to share your conclusions with others?

## Planning Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINDINGS</th>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED ACTIONS</th>
<th>DATA TO COLLECT</th>
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ACTION RESEARCH METAPHOR

Action Research is like _____________________ because_________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
(non-linguistic representation)
Reflecting on my learning....

3 things I learned:

2 things I will share with a colleague (name the colleague):

1 thing I would like to know more about: