

## CHAPTER 5

# Action Research

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### Handouts for this chapter include:

1. Starting points
2. Action plan
3. Data collection and analysis
4. Process for analyzing data
5. Analysis leading to action

# Starting points

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would really like to improve:

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I am perplexed by:

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Some people are unhappy about:

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I'm really curious about:

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I want to learn more about:

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An idea I would like to try in my class is:

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Something I think would really make a difference is:

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Something I would like to change is:

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Right now, some areas I'm particularly interested in are:

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# Action plan

I. Action research topic:

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II. Question I am pursuing:

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III. Steps that need to be taken:

By when

Person(s)  
responsible

Resources/  
support

	By when	Person(s) responsible	Resources/ support
A.			
B.			
C.			
D.			
E.			

## Data collection and analysis

DATA TOOLS AND SOURCES	PURPOSE: BREADTH/DEPTH/CORROBORATION	WHOSE PERSPECTIVE?	WHEN WILL IT TAKE PLACE?

# Process for analyzing data

In using qualitative research, you will collect and analyze data at the same time. These processes inform each other. Be open to new ways of thinking as you learn more from your data.

- **Go through all data** you have collected. Make notes as you go.
- **Look for themes, patterns, big ideas.** Key words and phrases can trigger themes. Determine these themes by your scan of the data, not your preconceived ideas of what you think the categories are.
- **Narrow the themes down** to something manageable — 3-5 of your most compelling and interesting themes.
- **Go back through all of your data** and code or label information according to the themes in order to organize your ideas. Some ideas may fit into more than one theme. Create subgroups under each theme.
- **Write continuously.** Jot down what you are seeing, what questions are emerging, and what you are learning. Keep notes on new ideas or findings that are unanticipated.
- **Review your information** after it is coded/labeled to see if there is a frequency of certain items and/or powerful, interesting, unusual comments or behaviors that are of particular interest to you. This may be an incident that gives you a new insight, and it may be one of the most important to hold on to.
- **Identify the main points** that appear most frequently and are the most powerful. It will be hard to let go of some of your information, but it is important to sift through it.
- **Write down your major points.** You can write them by theme, chronologically, or according to the different modes you used for collecting information.
- **Draw the information together** to include some of the evidence which supports each of your themes. The reader should be able to draw conclusions based on the evidence you have presented.

# Analysis leading to action

## Now that you have analyzed your data ...

- What have you learned?

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- How do you feel about what you have learned?

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

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- Do the conclusions seem believable?

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- What actions might you take based on your conclusions?

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- What new questions emerge for you from the data?

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- Who else might be interested in these conclusions?

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- What strategies can you use to share your conclusions with others?

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