



EDUC 890 Class 12

Chapter 13—Action Research Designs

Chapter 14—Conclusions, Interpretations, Implications

Assignment #6

Literature Review

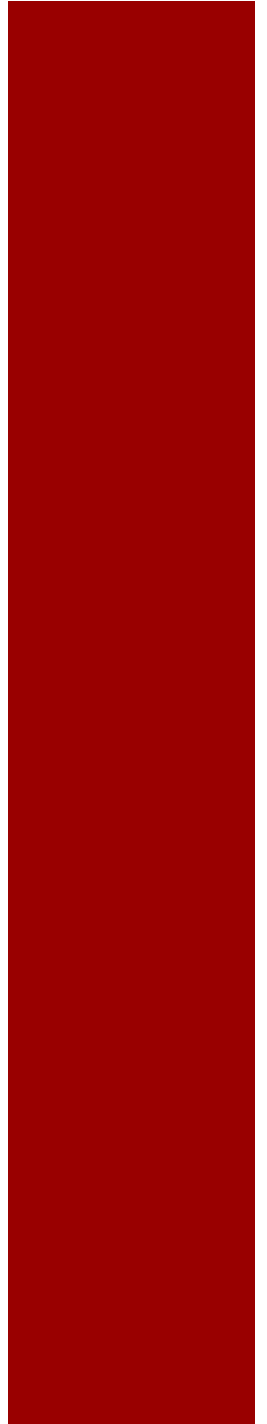
study-by study review

- Describe 4-5 research articles in detail:
 - research purpose and/or questions,
 - research design,
 - data collection & analysis,
 - summary of results,
 - your comments
- 4-5 ***research*** articles described,
 - map,
 - intro,
 - transitions,
 - closing summary,
 - APA headings throughout,
 - references

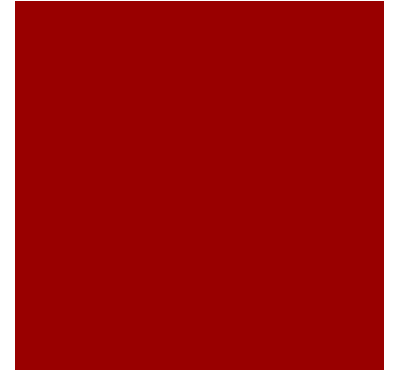
Chapter 13

Action Research

Designs



Action research is....



- A process for practitioners to...
 - Identify a practical problem
 - Figure out how to take action to solve the problem
 - Using research



Group work

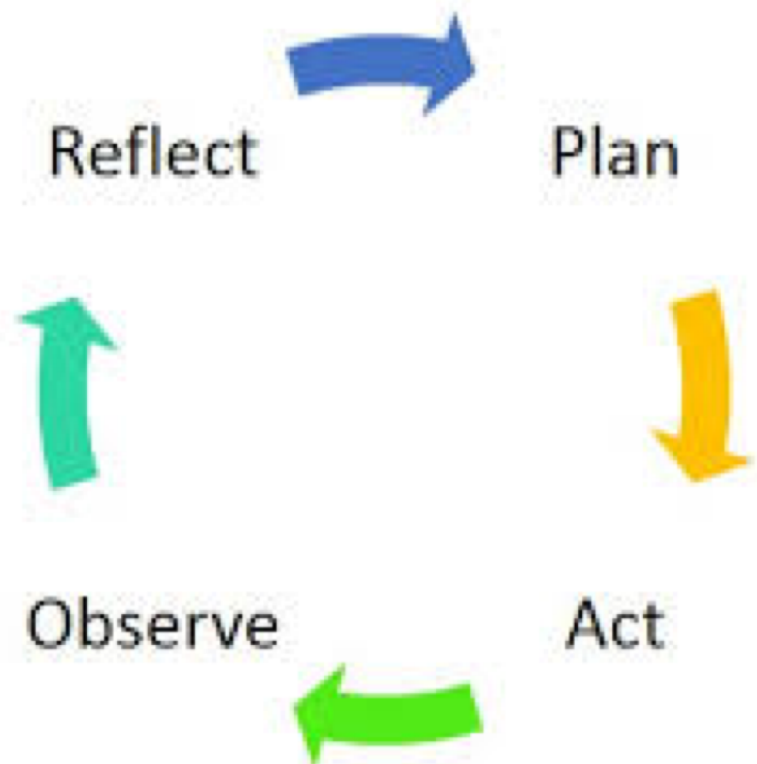
Practical problems

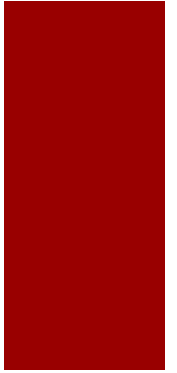
- In groups/pairs, generate a list of 2-3 problems you've experienced in your teaching practice that you would like to solve!



Action research involves...

- A cyclical process of...
 - Reflecting
 - Collecting data
 - Taking action





Practical Action Research

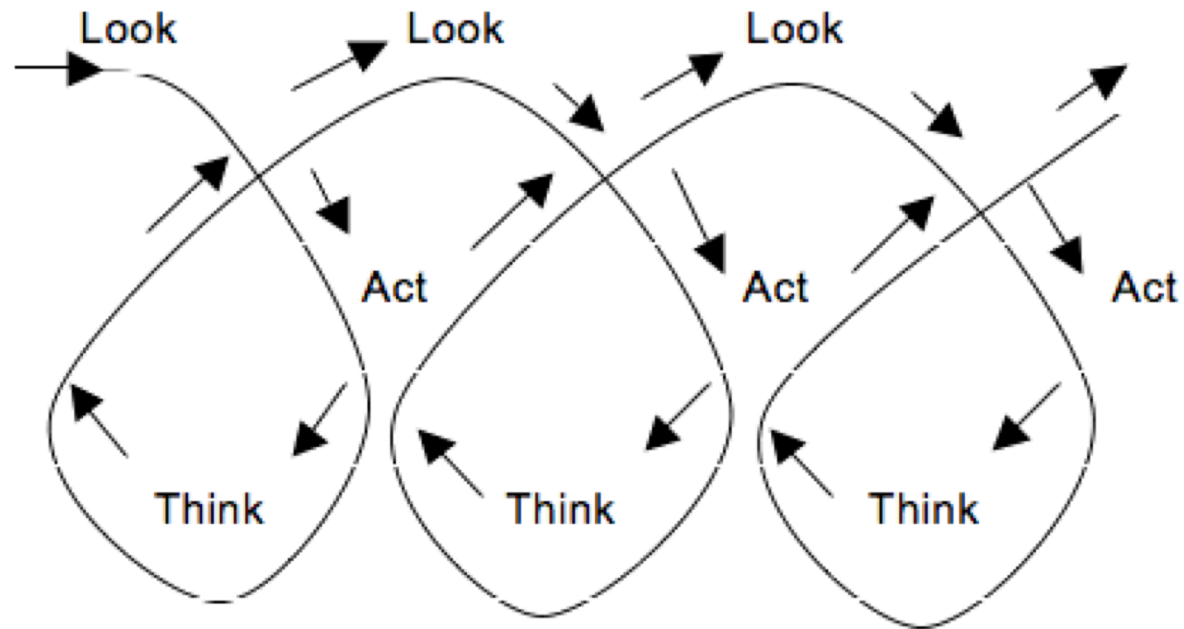
- **Impetus:** Problems in local practice
- Individual or team based inquiry
- Implementing a plan of action
- **Goal:** improved practice

Participatory Action Research

- **Impetus:** Social issues that constrain lives
- Collaboration with the influenced people
- Making life-enhancing changes
- **Goal:** changes in the community



What do you do?



Steps

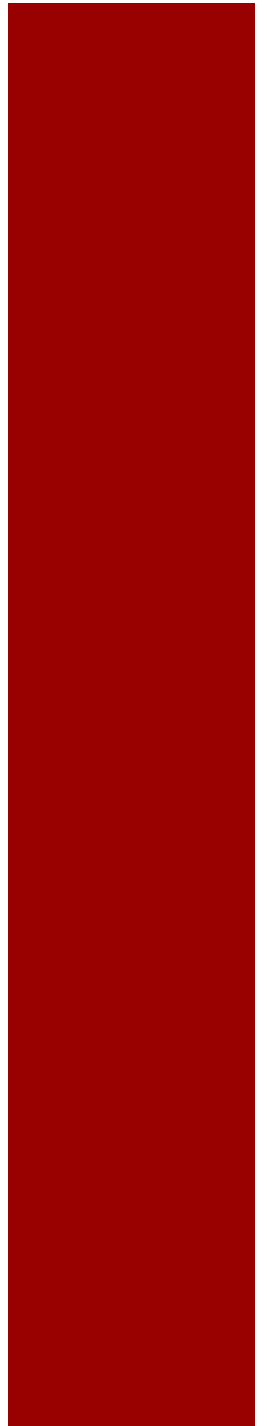
in action research



- 1 Determine if it's possible in your context
- 2 Identify the problem of practice
- 3 Locate resources to help you address problem (e.g., literature)
- 4 Identify data you need to examine
- 5 Implement data collection
- 6 Analyze data
- 7 Develop plan of action
- 8 Implement the plan
- 9 Reflect

Chapter 14

Conclusions, Interpretations, Implications



Conclusion (discussion)section



Interpreting and making sense of the findings; explaining how results answer the research questions

- Summary of results
- Relating results to literature
- Personal reflections about the meaning of the research
- Implications for practice
- Limitations of the study
- Future research needs
- Significance of study



Summary of results

- General, rather than specific info, e.g.:
 - *“Families of younger children report higher outcomes than those with older children”*
 - *This study identified five key strategies that teachers use to support student composing:*
 - *Managing the context*
 - *Managing the implementation of teaching strategies*
 - *Engaging*
 - *Providing tools*
 - *Guiding*



Relating results to literature

- How the results are similar to, different from, or extend what existing studies or theories describe, e.g.:
- *“Results from this study confirm findings of Powers (2002) that students’ lower participation in physical activity is a significant concern”*
- *“Factors found to be significant were in line with the Social Ecological Model”*



Personal reflections

- How the results are similar to, different from, or extend what existing studies or theories describe, e.g.:
- *“Having learned conversations are more educational when I facilitate without participating, I teach less and listen more”*
- *“This research challenges the socially accepted idea that homeless youth are ‘lazy’ and cannot be ‘bothered’ to find a job”*



Implications for practice

- Arguing for useful actions that individuals can take in response to the new knowledge developed, e.g.:
- *“Use group discussions with homeless youth to identify potential solutions to problems they are experiencing”*
- *“When taking notes from websites, students should be encouraged to copy and paste main ideas rather than entire paragraphs”*



Limitations of the study

- Identifying potential weaknesses of the study that may have affected results, e.g.:
 - *Quantitative...*
 - *Lack of random sample*
 - *Small sample size*
 - *Inadequate measures of variables*
 - *Confounding variables*
 - *Qualitative*
 - *Non-purposeful sampling*
 - *Lack of rich data, gaps in data*
 - *Difficulties in validating interpretations*



Future research needs

- How future research might build on the study's findings or overcome limitations, e.g.:
 - *“This research identified a gap in accessibility of health care services. Research exploring where youth receive health information would be helpful.”*
 - *“Future research should attempt to replicate these findings using a randomly selected nation-wide sample.”*



Significance of study

- Create the effect of leaving on a positive note—a wrap-up of what the study accomplished, e.g.:
- *“The findings from this research can be used to help create more effective social housing policies and care programs for adolescents who are homeless.”*

Group work

Examine a conclusion section

See the discussion section of the quantitative bullying-intervention p. 111 and identify...

- A summary of a major result
- A discussion relating a result to other literature
- An implication of the results for practice
- A limitation of the study
- A suggestion for future research
- A statement of the overall significance of the study



Answers

- A summary of a major result
 - **in para 31–33, summaries of the major result for each of the study’s three hypotheses. E.g.,**
 - *Middle school students grossly overestimated the prevalence of bullying and support for it amongst peers*
 - *Variation in personal bullying attitudes and behaviours was highly correlated with variation of the perception of the peer norm*
 - *The intervention resulted in*
 - *significant reductions in misperceptions of the prevalence of bullying and peer support of bullying,*
 - *and simultaneous reductions in personal bullying behaviours and experiences of victimization.”*



Answers

- A discussion relating a result to other literature
 - **In para 32, they compare a major result (personal attitudes and behaviors were associated with perceptions of peer norms) with other literature to show that the result is consistent with what has been found previously.**
- An implication of the results for practice
 - **paragraph 32: “interventions to reduce misperceptions can help reduced problem behaviors.”**



Answers *continued*

- A limitation of the study
 - **para 34–36: lack of a control site, the reliance on self-report data, possibility that students changed their perceptions and behaviors from completing the survey**
- A suggestion for future research
 - **para 34, 35, and 37. multiple suggestions, e.g.: examine a wider range of school settings.**
- A statement of the overall significance of the study
 - **para 37: “To conclude, this research suggests that a social norms intervention may be a promising strategy to help reduce bullying.”**



Homework

- None!



- (except the lit review)

