



Suggested Action Research Protocol

Although action research is not a quick fix for all school problems, it represents a process that...can focus the brain-power of the entire instructional staff on maximizing learning (McLean, 1995).

- **Decide who will be involved in the research.**
 - Individual
 - Collaborative (taken on by a group or team of individuals working in one classroom, several classrooms, or districtwide (Oja & Smulyan, 1989)
 - Schoolwide (a community of practitioners including teachers, parents, students, and administrators) (Calhoun, 1994; Calhoun, Allen, Halliburton, & Jones, 1996; *Equity and Choice*, 1993; McNiff, 1995; Sagor, 1992; Stringer, 1999)
- **Decide on approach.**
 - Qualitative (detailed verbal descriptions of the phenomena observed (Glanz, p.10)
 - Quantitative (numerical data)
 - Descriptive
 - Survey
 - Observation
 - Correlational
 - Group comparison
 - Experimental
 - Quasi-experimental
 - Ex post facto
 - Mixed method (a blend of verbal and numerical)
- **Follow the Steps in Action Research Process (Glanz, 2003).**
 1. **Reflect**
 - Read, explore best practices, consider innovative ideas.
 2. **Focus**
 - Decide what to investigate.
 - Develop questions about your investigation.
 - Create a plan to answer your questions.

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3. Collect Data

- Based on your research design, consider options.
 - Teacher-made assessments
 - Standardized assessments
 - Surveys
 - Interviews
 - Focus groups
 - Products (portfolios)

4. Analyze and Interpret Data

- Descriptive statistics
 - Mean
 - Standard deviation
 - Percentage
 - Correlation coefficient
- Inferential statistics
 - T-tests
 - Sign tests
 - Mann-Whitney U-test
 - Chi-square analysis

5. Take Action

- Continue the innovation.
- Disband the innovation.
- Modify the innovation.
- Share your results (if you like).