PLANNING, DESIGNING AND DOING ACTION RESEARCH

AN ACTION REFLECTION CYCLE

Here is a basic action reflection cycle of questions:

- What is my concern?
- Why am I concerned?
- How do I gather data to show the situation as it is?
- How do I gather data to show the situation as it develops?
- What can I do about it?
- What will I do about it?
- How do I generate evidence from the data?
- How do I show that I am influencing learning?
- How do I ensure that any conclusions I come to are reasonably fair and accurate?
- How do I explain the significance of what I am doing?
- How do I modify my ideas and practices in light of my evaluation?

PLANNING TO DO A PROJECT

Here are some key aspects for doing a project

Planning: what do I need to think about?

- What issue do I wish to investigate?
- Why do I wish to investigate this issue? Why is it an important issue?
- What is my research question ('How do I …?')

Designing: how am I going to do my project?

- Who will I involve as research participants?
- Who will I ask to be my critical friends and validation groups? Will they be available?
- Will I have sufficient resources? Will I have the necessary technology? Will I have institutional support? Will I have access to a library?
- Do I need permission to do my project? How will I reassure people of my good ethical conduct?
- What is my timeline? Is my project feasible? Is it manageable?

Doing: how do I implement my plans?

- How will I monitor the action? Which action will I monitor?
- How will I gather data about the action?
- What will I gather data about? What kinds of data will I gather?
- How do I ensure that my data is relevant and meaningful?
- How do I sort, analyse and interpret the data?

Evaluating: how do I judge the quality of what I am doing?

- How do I generate evidence from the data? What standards of judgement do I use?
- How do I check that my evidence is robust?
- How do I judge the quality of my practice? How do I judge the quality of my research?

Explaining: how do I explain the significance of what I am doing and why I am doing it?

- How do I explain the significance of what I am doing?
- How do I explain my educational influences in learning?
- Can I comment on the overall quality of my research project?

Modifying: how do I continue to improve what I am doing?

- How do I develop the ideas and the work? How do I develop my learning?
- Where do I do this? How do I do this? What resources and supports do I need?
- Who do I need to involve?

Communicating: how do I share my learning, and why is it important to share it?

- How do I write up my project? How do I incorporate multimedia representations?
- How do I judge the quality of my report?
- How do I inspire others to do the same? How do I continue to influence their and my learning?

You can find resources for action research at www.actionresearch.net and www.jeanmcniff.com

Please contact me at jeanmcniff@mac.com

Thank you!

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