

## **Living (Interactive) Posters**

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Living-posters as an assessment method are used to enable students to gather a range of their research data that can be used to articulate an individual's explanation of their educational influence in their own learning, in the learning of others and also in the learning of the social formations within which the practice is located.

The challenge of creating a living-poster is related to, but different to a traditional abstract for a paper, dissertation or essay. All offer a disciplined focus that demands a distillation to extract the essence of a complex picture. Hence the challenge of producing an abstract in the process of creating a paper or thesis can help the researcher to clarify what constitutes the practice they are wanting to improve and the values that form their explanatory principles and standards of judgment. A living (interactive) poster offers a similar challenge for the researcher to use text, image and video to produce a representation that provides a window into their research at a moment in time and the influential connections to thinking, people, collectives and networks in influencing social formations.

The Living poster includes the use of multi-media narratives for the clarification and communication of the meanings of the embodied expressions of the values used by educational professionals to give meaning and purpose to their lives. The values are influenced by the mutual relationships of 'I am because we are, we are because I am'. They flow with energies often omitted from traditional academic texts about education.

The process of students creating their multi-media poster in a culture of inquiry will engender productive, educational dialogue as they explore student's contexts, practice, motivations and research passions, finding points of resonance and contradiction with their own values. The discussions challenge thinking and lead to new reflections between the students which will also create a validation group.

Living posters, as a research method, has potentially two inter-related uses for a Living Theory researcher developing valid explanations of their educational influences which:

- 1) Enhance their educational influence in their own learning and
- 2) Enhances the contributions they make to and the benefit they derive from the learning of others and social formations.

Students are asked to create an attractive poster using software they are familiar with (Word, PowerPoint etc.) rather than just a text summary, to include URL links to their key research i.e. an article they have written, extracts from their reflective diary, video articulating their ontological values in practice, their website etc. and contact details to share their research journey. Students are also asked to include a link to a short video clip (maximum 3 minutes) of them talking about their practice, research passions, any

living-contradictions, as this would contribute to the communication of their embodied values.

The power of images, video, together with the text and linked documents (including references) communicate the individual students ontological and relational life-enhancing and life-affirming values expressed in their practice.

Creating a Living Poster:

<http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/arna/arnaposters270415.pdf>

