

Action Research for the Classroom

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Overview

This document contains information specific to the course. For general information on PLS Classes including our academic integrity policy and more, please visit this URL: PLSClasses.com/our-courses/syllabi.

Course Description

Action research is a process of inquiry and reflection in which educators examine their personal instructional practice systematically, using the techniques of research. This online course addresses concepts associated with action research and the processes and procedures for conducting action research, culminating in the development of an action research plan.

Course Materials

For on-site and remote learning courses, each participant will receive a folder of materials along with access to digital materials. Upon registration, participants may choose to receive a printed participant manual in addition to the digital version.

Participants will receive access to digital materials prior to the first day of class. For remote learning classes, printed materials will be sent to the participant's provided address. For on-site classes, printed materials will be distributed on the first day of class.

Online class materials will be accessible through the learning management system (LMS).

Required Text

McNiff, J. (2016). *You and your action research project* (4th ed.). New York: Routledge.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this class, the learner will be able to:

1. Define the characteristics of action research.
2. Compare and contrast action research with other types of research.
3. Relate action research to current teaching practices.

4. Describe the phase of the action research cycle.
5. Identify an action research topic.
6. Explain what constitutes an excellent action research question.
7. Define various data collection methods.
8. Develop a data collection plan for an action research project
9. Develop a data collection in a classroom setting.
10. Analyze different types of data collected during an action research project.
11. Explain various methods used to interpret action research data.
12. Write an action research report.
13. Present conclusions from an action research project to a specific audience.
14. Identify ethical issues related to action research.

Course Topical Outline

	List of Concepts
Action Research Overview	Defining action research; how action research relates to other types of research; how action research relates to teaching practices
The Action Research Cycle	Observing; reflecting; planning; acting; various theories of action research; identifying an action research topic
Developing Research Questions	Qualities of a good action research question; phrasing action research questions; ethical issues related to action research questions
Planning Data Collection	Data collection methods; observation protocols; interview protocols; surveys

Collecting Data	Data collection ethics; observations; interviews; surveys
Analyzing Data	Observation-data analysis; interview-data analysis; survey-data analysis
Interpreting Findings	Data triangulation; interpretive statements; over- and under-interpretation
Reporting Action Research Findings	Writing reports; potential audiences; disseminating reports; reporting ethics

Course Portfolio Assessments

Correlations to Course Outcomes and Institutional Outcomes

Throughout the course, the learner will be assessed and evaluated on the completion of the following assessments. Participants will complete a course project designed to strengthen professional practice and extend knowledge related to the specific content of the course. This project is divided into multiple grade activities to be completed throughout the term.

Additional learning activities include whole-group and small-group discussions and assessments for a total of 688 points.

Course Portfolio	Pts.	Correlations to Course Outcomes
Module 1: Action Research Overview	46	1, 2, 3
Module 2: The Action Research Cycle	49	4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Module 3: Developing Research Questions	61	5, 6, 9, 14
Module 4: Planning Data Collection	78	7, 8, 9
Module 5: Collecting Data	15	9, 10
Module 6: Analyzing Data	78	10

Module 7: Interpreting Findings	68	11
Module 8: Reporting Action Research Findings	48	12, 13, 14
Course Project	245	1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13
Final Course Portfolio Total	688	

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Additional Information

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