Senior Thesis: Action, Reflection, Analysis

Phase 4. Use and Share Results

Phase 1. Define an Issue to Study

Phase 3. Take Action

Phase 2. Review of Professional Literature
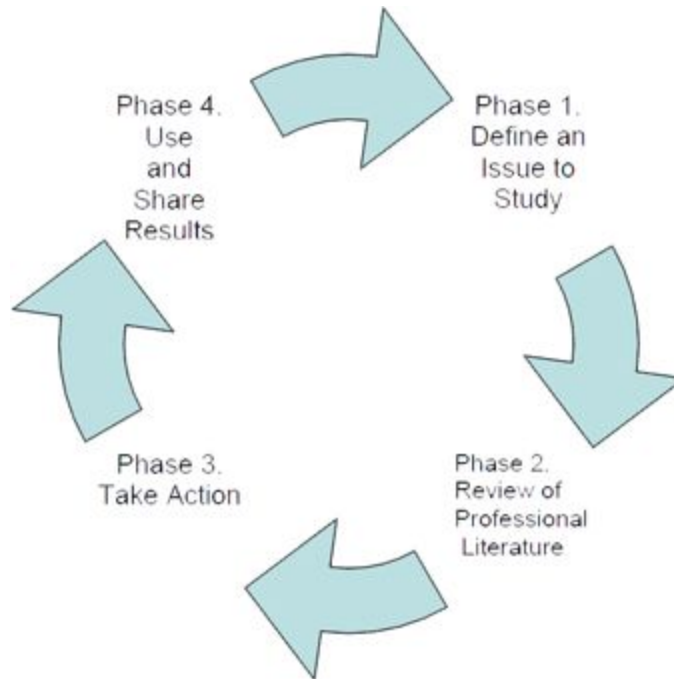
essential understandings:

Action research is **research** that calls for a reflective process of progressive problem solving led by individuals working with others in teams or as part of a "community of practice" to improve the way they address issues and solve problems.

"The clever man will tell you what he knows; he may even try to explain it to you. The wise man encourages you to discover it for yourself, even though he knows it inside out."

Revans (1980), quoted in Action Research, Principles and Practice,McNiff, 1988, 52

overview

Working on a large scale problem calls for different problem solving strategies. Action Research is a researcher-led approach to improve an organization, process, community or to solve a specific problem. This is exciting, because it means YOU are responsible for your learning in Action Research. What is important? Why is it important? The focus and scope of this project is determined by you! While working in your internships, you will focus on collecting data to use in a semester long Action Research project. It will be

similar in nature to a research paper, but more involved. By the end of the year, you will be able to have identified a specific research question, provided insight into how to answer this question, and implemented your plan with your internship provider. You will be using data you collected as evidence to back up your claims.

guiding questions:

How can I reflect on my process to gather information?

How do I know if my research is working-that is, if I am getting closer to answering my research question?

How can I make the data I collect meaningful?

lessons

- Outline parts 1, 2 and 3
- Self Evaluation
- Reflecting on Research
- Evidence based claims
- Qualitative vs Quantitative Research

group work

Students should understand that Action Research calls for group collaboration in many ways, they should be prepared to help each other understand the process, and carry out their projects. Working with your peers will count as part of a daily participation grade.

individual work

1. Read the following article:http://www.simplypsychology.org/qualitative-quantitative.html, A one to two page paper which explains the differences between **quantitative** and **qualitative** research. Which type of research would describe Action Research?

Which type of research will YOU be using and why? (It may be both.) MINIMUM ONE PAGE **Due 1/5**

2. Journal Entries that describe your internship experience, what you have learned from class/lessons, and include all of the data you have collected. **Due every Thursday 1/05, 1/12, 1/18, 1/26**
3. Read the following article, and provide a 1 page summary of at least 3 of the people/ideas surveyed: http://www.dailycal.org/2015/02/06/survey-senior-theses/ **Due 1/12**
4. Develop your **three** data collection methods for each part of your Action Research question. Include questions for your **interviews**, guidelines for your **observations**, and and questions for your **questionnaires**. **Due 1/18**
5. Finish Outline Template Part III (The outline will eventually become your finished Action Research Project.) **Due 1/30**

Each section of the outline (Introduction, Context, etc) should be at LEAST one paragraph long. Be specific, and explain all parts of your project. You should mention where you go to school, what your Thesis class is about, what you're learning/working on, etc.

assessment due 2/2

A Socratic Dialogue on the following topic:

How have you transformed as a student as a result of Action Research?

Bring 4 questions to the dialogue.

For example: How have your ideas on what education means changed as a result of participating in a student-led project?

How has the independence of Action Research changed your views on school?

What do you think the future of Action Research is?

readings

http://www.dailycal.org/2015/02/06/survey-senior-theses/

links

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXhOZmFID4c

http://evokedevelopment.com/uploads/blog/commonData.pdf

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WHMPZ6WAiY