



Exploring Practice through Classroom-based Research

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What we will do today

- Explore possibilities of classroom-based research
- Demonstrate steps for engaging with classroom-based research



THINKING ABOUT CLASSROOM-BASED RESEARCH

Answer Garden

In your view, what might be some benefits of Classroom-Based research?

Click on the link below and write your answers in the text box in **note form** (max. 4 words per entry)

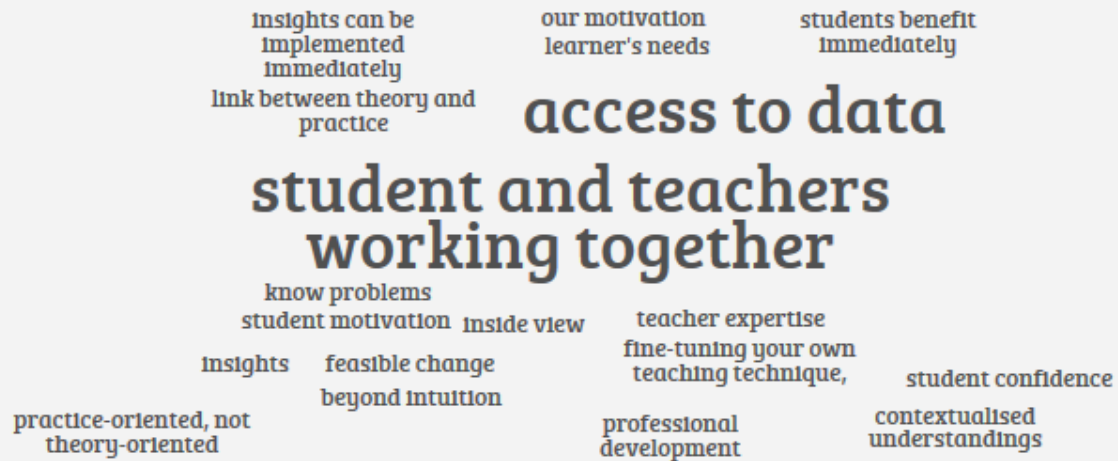
<https://answergarden.ch/view/234647>

Check answers

What are the benefits of classroom-based research?

Submit

40 characters remaining



Why do classroom-based research

- It can inform our teaching decisions
- It can help with our professional development
- It can strengthen collaboration among colleagues
- It generates data-based evidence

Assumptions about research

Research involves:

- Technical expertise
- Grounding in the literature
- Contribution to knowledge
- Time & resources

Does this apply to
classroom-based
research?

I am not a
professionally trained
researcher :(

I have not read many
books and articles :/

I have nothing new to
say...

I have no free time!



I CAN DO
Research



Teacher at Chalkboard, by cybrarian77 @ Flickr, CC-BY-NC



PLANNING A RESEARCH PROJECT

Thinking about what to research

Step 1: Defining a research question

Use this space to write down a tentative research question

Before we move on... evaluate your research question against the following criteria:

- Can I find actual data that answer the research question by looking into my classroom practice, my students or myself?
- Do I have access to the resources I need to answer this question?
- Can this question be answered in a reasonable timeframe?
- Can the findings be used to inform practice?

Example research questions

- Why are students reluctant to use our lending library?
- How difficult are authentic listening tasks my intermediate class?
- Does increasing planning time help students in the elementary classes I teach to speak with more confidence?

Thinking about utility

Step 2: Thinking about the pedagogical utility of the research project

Think of all the people, including yourself, who stand to benefit from your findings. Write them in the left-hand column. Then, use the right-hand column to briefly explain how they might benefit from your research.

My study is useful to...	<u>because...</u>

Thinking about methods

Step 3: Thinking about methods

Think about the advantages of different research methods, with reference to your research question. Record your thoughts in the table below, and use them to guide your selection of the most appropriate research method.

Data generation method	Advantages	Drawbacks
Questionnaire survey		
Questionnaire survey with open ended questions		
Interview		
Classroom observation		
Diary study		
Other...		

Thinking about time

Example: a questionnaire-based project

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
<p><i>Planning the project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Decide on research questions</i> <i>Read-up on questionnaire design</i> <i>Obtain permissions</i> 						
<p><i>Designing and piloting (: testing) a data generation instrument</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Write a draft questionnaire</i> <i>Ask two friends to pilot and give feedback</i> <i>Rewrite questionnaire</i> 						
<p><i>Generating data</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Discuss project w/students</i> <i>Administer questionnaire (homework)</i> 						
<p><i>Analysing the data</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Collect questionnaires</i> <i>Use MS-Excel to record answers</i> <i>Create graphs to help understand data</i> <i>Think about what the data show & draw conclusions</i> 						
<p><i>Sharing your findings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Create a poster showing most important findings</i> 						



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Some online resources

- **Questionnaire design:**

<http://achilleaskostoulas.com/category/notes/researching/research-methods-researching/questionnaires-design/>

- **Research methods:**

<http://achilleaskostoulas.com/category/notes/researching/research-methods-researching/>

- **Presenting in conferences:**

<http://achilleaskostoulas.com/2014/04/12/how-to-present-a-conference-paper/>

<http://achilleaskostoulas.com/2014/04/17/conference-papers-engaging-with-feedback/>

- **Academic writing:**

<http://achilleaskostoulas.com/2013/11/04/academic-writing-some-resources/>

Some more online resources

- **Brainstorming:** www.answergarden.ch
- **Questionnaires:** www.surveymonkey.com
- **Phrasebank:**
<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>
- **Blogging:** www.wordpress.com,
www.blogspot.com

More to explore!



- ✓ Benefits of Classroom-Based research
- ✓ Challenging assumptions
- ✓ The research process
- ✓ Types of classroom-based research
- ✓ Research ethics

Please send us feedback!

Thank you!

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