

Contents

Preface	xi
Introduction	xv
Chapter 1. Introducing the Three Steps of Action Research: A Tool for Complex Times and Situations	1
What Is Action Research, and Where Did It Come From?	3
What Are Other Methodologies That Are Similar to Action Research?	4
What Are the Steps in the Action Research Process?	14
How Does Action Research Methodology Use Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Methods?	19
Why Is Action Research a Methodology for Complex Times?	23
How Can I Ensure Success? Study Failure!	25
Conclusion	29
Chapter 2. The Proposal and Ethics	31
What Are the Seven Key Concepts in Research Writing?	33
What Goes Into an Action Research Proposal?	38
How Do I Start to Plan the Proposal and My Work?	44
How Can I Avoid Common Mistakes?	46
Am I Doing Insider Research?	48
What Are Ethical Codes for Research?	50
How Do Ethics Specifically Pertain to the Action Research Process?	52
What Are Some Specific Ethical Considerations When Using a Team Approach?	59

What Are Some Potential Ethical Issues to Consider in Business, Nonprofit, and Public Administration Settings?	61
Conclusion	63
Chapter 3. What to Do and How to Do It . . .	67
What Do You Do When You Do Action Research?	68
What Is the Best Way to Build a Participatory or Team Effort?	85
What Tools Are Useful for Action Research Student Researchers?	93
Conclusion	94
Chapter 4. Methods and Measurement	97
What Types of Methods Are There, and Which Are Most Commonly Used in Action Research?	98
Can You Tell Me More About Qualitative Measures?	103
Can You Tell Me More About Quantitative Measures?	115
What About Mixed Methods?	120
How Do I Know Which Method(s) to Employ?	122
What Are Some Examples of Methods Used by Other Students?	128
What if I Can't Figure out How to Design the Data Collection and Analysis for My Research?	131
Conclusion	132
Chapter 5. Working With People and Groups	135
What Skills Do You Need?	137
Are You an Insider or Outsider, and How Does It Matter?	140
What Is the Ideal Model for a Participatory Action Research Group?	144
What Does Power Have to Do With It?	147

What If No One Has Time to Work on the Study?	152
In What Way Do Ethics Come in When Working With Groups?	153
What Do Participatory Action Research Groups Do?	155
What Are Some Guidelines That Groups Can Keep in Mind in Order to Advance a Participatory Action Research Project?	158
What Do You Do When Faced With Defensiveness?	161
Conclusion	164
Chapter 6. Networks and How to Employ Them for Change	169
Why Use Networked Participatory Action Research?	172
What Are Networks and How Are Their Attributes in Line With Action Research?	174
What Is the Hub and Spoke Participatory Action Research Design?	181
What Are the Necessary Ingredients for a Successful Networked Action Research Project?	185
How Is the Hub and Spoke Participatory Action Research Design Employed for Dynamic Change or Reform?	189
How Do People Connect in a Networked Design?	191
Does a Network Have to Preexist or Can You Start One for the Project?	192
Are There Examples of Networked Participatory Action Research?	193
How Could Virtual Tools, Learning Management Systems, or Social Networking Platforms Be Used to Your Network's Advantage?	196
Conclusion	198
Chapter 7. Analyzing and Reporting Results	201
How Do I Assess My Research Outcomes?	203
How Do I Analyze My Work as Data?	209

Success or Failure, How Do I Tell Them Apart?	212
What Standards Do I Need to Hold for Final Analysis?	215
How Do I Pull My Analysis Into the Seven Concepts Discussed in Research?	223
How Do I Write the Best Report for My Stakeholders?	224
What If My Stakeholders Need to See Success, but I Am Less Than Happy With My Results?	229
Conclusion	232
Chapter 8. Final Touches and Emancipatory Potential	237
What Do the Teachers Say?	238
What Do Students Say?	243
What Do the Authors Say?	248
Appendix A. Action Research Proposal Outline	255
Appendix B. Example of Student Answers to Proposal Questions	263
Appendix C. Student Proposal	275
Appendix D. Action Research Weekly Report	291
Appendix E. Table for Measurable Actions	293
Appendix F. Year-Long Guide for Networked Action Research	295
Appendix G. Model Informed Consent	301
Glossary of Terms	307

References	313
Index	333
About the Authors	345