Research skills: Student learning objective 3

Jocelyn C. Castro

SED 697

California State University, Northridge
Research Skills

RESEARCH SKILLS by designing and conducting research ethically and effectively and presenting their findings at a professional level in oral and written forms.

Assignment

The action research paper was a product of the study that was conducted in our individual classrooms. Students chose their own question and designed a study to help answer the question(s). The paper consisted of five chapters. The introduction laid the context and foundation of the questions. It introduces the reader to the purpose and importance of the study. The literature review was the collection of research gathered to help support the foundation of the study. Many studies have been done in the past that is valuable to our own studies. It provided the reader a sense of comfort that the author is a valuable source for the topic. The methodology outlined the procedure taken to conduct the study. The demographics and data tools of the study were described in this section. The findings displayed the data gathered. The discussion wrapped up the paper by analyzing the data, making conclusions of the study, and discussing any recommendations for future studies. Throughout the whole process, we presented the paper to our peers via exchange of papers and oral presentations.

Connection between Assignment and SLO

The action research was a project that was unique to each of us. We all chose topics that interested us. The study was more meaningful because it occurred in our individual classrooms. Administrators and parents were informed of the study. The school and district officials were aware of the study being conducted in my classroom. Informed consents were passed out to all my students. The study was optional for students to participate in. The decision of the students to participate or not participate did not affect the student.
The literature review was very valuable in designing the study. I had an idea of what was done in previous similar studies, what worked, and what did not work. I was able to build and expand on what was already known in the education field. Outlining how the study was not the difficult part of the process. I learned how to design the data collection so that information gathered would help answer the question(s). Triangulating data created an effective study because the data and analysis presented is not based on one source, rather several data sets that have been compared and correlated. After gathering data, there were multiple ways to analyze qualitative and quantitative data. Analyzing the data allowed the data to not be just anecdotal. Thinking the procedure and data collection all the way through made an effective study.

Throughout the process, I shared my progress with the rest of the cohort through peer reviews and presentations. The peer reviews gave us an insight of everyone’s status. We were able to collaborate in improving each other’s study. The discussions that stemmed from the peer reviews were very helpful because discussing your own study allows you to self-analyze what needs to be improved upon. I was able to gain feedback from our peers and offer constructive criticism about their research.

*What you learned and how it will influence your teaching*

The action research was a valuable learning experience. Research is an important tool for education. As a teacher I need to continue to be current with the literature so that I can improve my own pedagogy and share the theory with my colleagues. There are so many techniques and methods being effectively used in the other classrooms. I want to incorporate methods that have been effective to other teachers and know how to modify it so that it works for my classroom.

The use of music in my action research provided a lot of insight for my own classroom. It demonstrated to me that not all students need music to help them focus. It allowed me to
consider the use of their personal music players in the classrooms. My own research made me wonder if students were given the option to use their music, would it help them? This research questioned my classroom environment. When silence falls upon my students, I now look around and observe how all of my students react. Some students do not mind the silence, but there are some students who do not appreciate the silence. My own study is making me reconsider how my classroom environment is set up.

The action research reminds me the importance of reflection. I may not be formally doing a study in my classroom everyday, but I need to be attentive to my students’ needs. How can I improve upon my own teaching style so that all students can have access to the content? This assignment was valuable because it reminds me not to be stagnant in my own teaching.