Lost in the Woods?
Using Action Research to Improve Your Assessment

As you get settled:

• Think about a classroom instruction challenge you face.
• Take a few notes in your workbook.
Lost in the Woods?
Using Action Research to Improve Your Assessment

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https://tinyurl.com/authority-LOEX
Getting Started

What’s a classroom instruction challenge you face?

Take notes in your workbook.

“talk” by carlos sarmento from the Noun Project
Where We’re Headed Today

- Action Research Background
- Our Action Research Project
- Rubrics
- Identifying and Collecting Data
Action Research

• It starts with a problem.
• Focus is on improvement--of skills, techniques, and/or strategies.
• Can be undertaken by an individual or be a collaborative effort.

The underlying question in any action research project should be:
“How can we can do things better?”

(Ferrance, 2000, p. 3)
ACTION RESEARCH CYCLE

- PROBLEM
- PLAN
- REFLECT
- OBSERVE
- ACT
OUR ACTION RESEARCH CYCLE

Students think scholarly always = better Why?

How can we find out how students think about authority?

Create lesson & hands-on assignment to explore authority

Use information to plan future instruction, address quality non-scholarly sources

Collect student work/data

Teach Lesson
Our Action Research Project

Our question:
• How do students think about authority, especially in the context of scholarly and news articles?

The numbers:
• 8 librarian instructors
• 13 Writing faculty - 27 Writing classes
• 337 students participated in the activity
• 277 students opted in to having their data included in the study
Lesson Plan Overview

• Students found 1 scholarly article and 1 news article on their topic.

• Librarian defined authority and gave examples of types of information they could find about their authors.

• Students researched the authority of each author and submitted it as a Qualtrics form.
Activity Goals & Mindset

• For this activity, you will use a rubric to:
  • assess an example of student work.
  • think about your experience using the rubric.

• Rubrics are messy and complex. Our rubric isn’t perfect either :)

• We’re asking you to embrace the messiness!
Find Your Stuff

• Does the first page of your workbook say **scholarly** or **news**?

• Example of student work in your workbook.
  • Turn to the side that matches the the first page of your workbook.

• Copy of the rubric in the middle of the table.
  • Turn to the side that matches the the first page of your workbook.
Rubric Activity: Step 1

• Work as an individual.
• Based on your workbook cover, work on:
  • NEWS ARTICLE (Yellow) OR SCHOLARLY ARTICLE (Blue)
• Activity:
  • Use the rubric to evaluate the student’s work.
  • Review the student’s article and author information provided.
  • Think about the process & write comments in your workbook.
  • What works well? What doesn’t?
• Time: 7 minutes
Rubric Activity: Step 2

- **Pair up with someone at your table** who evaluated the same type of article *(news or scholarly).*

- **Activity:**
  - Compare how you scored the student’s work.
  - Discuss your thought process.
  - What did you notice while using the rubric?

- **Time:** 7 minutes
Rubric Activity: Step 3

- Talk with your entire table.
- Activity:
  - Did you score the student work similarly or differently?
  - What are the benefits and challenges of using rubrics for assessment?
- Time: 5 minutes
Challenge

Students think scholarly always = better. Why?

Plan 1: Need to know

How do students **think** about authority?

Plan 2: Identify data

How can I find out how they **think**?

Type of data
- Skill
- Thought process
- Knowledge
- Behavior
- Perception

Data collection
- Student work
- Observe
- Survey

Act

Teach class
How can you choose?

- Pair up with someone at your table.

- Activity:
  - Think back to your original instructional issue.
  - What kinds of student data could help you address this?
  - Think student data. Their learning is the best indicator of successful instruction.

- Reference the page with examples at the end of your workbook.

- **Time:** 5 minutes
Questions?
Further Reading


