

What Is Action Research?

Compare/Contrast

	ACTION RESEARCH	TRADITIONAL RESEARCH
PURPOSE	To answer a research question, educate and effect social change.	To answer a research question.
EXPERTISE	Comes from the "subjects."	Comes from the researchers.
AUDIENCE	The community of which the subjects and researchers are a part.	For scientific, academic and/or professional communities.
METHODS	Observation, document collection, interviews, focus groups, surveys, journals.	Observation, document collection, interviews, focus groups, surveys, journals.



What Is Action Research?, continued

- Figuring out the PROBLEM together — people experience things differently and may see different things as the problem.
- Getting more INFORMATION about the problem AS A GROUP — when everyone looks at things from their unique perspectives, you get a better, more accurate picture.
- PUTTING the information TOGETHER and judging it to see if it makes sense.
- Deciding WHERE you want to MAKE A DIFFERENCE, and where you will be able to make a difference (with individuals, in families, in schools, in systems such as health care, among friends and peers, etc.).
- USING the information TO MAKE SOMETHING BETTER — advocacy works better in a group; a crowd of voices is louder than one person shouting alone.
- EVALUATING the information together to see what the next steps are.

THE BETTER THE RESEARCH ... THE BETTER THE ACTION!!!