Action Research: Five Phases

• Why do you want to do it? Is it an important and practical problem, something worth your time and effort, something that could be beneficial to you, your students and others?

- Is the problem stated clearly and in the form of a question? Is it broad enough to allow for a range of insights and findings? Is it narrow enough to be manageable within your time frame and your daily work?

• What types of data should you try to collect in order to answer your question?

- How will you ensure that you have multiple perspectives?

- What resources exist and what information from others might be useful in helping you to frame your question, decide on types of data to collect, or to help you in interpreting your findings?

• What will you do differently in your classroom as a result of this study?

- What might you recommend to others?

- How will you write about what you have learned so that the findings will be useful to you and to others?

• Will you develop and implement a new strategy or approach to address your question? If so, what will it be?

- Will you focus your study on existing practices? If so, which particular ones?

- What is an appropriate timeline for what you are trying to accomplish?

• What can you learn from the data? What patterns, insights, and new understandings can you find?

- What meaning do these patterns, insights and new understandings have for your practice? For your students?
The Action Research Cycle

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Action Research Interacting Spiral

The Dialectic Action Research Spiral

What is data collection?

---noticing patterns of behavior and features of our environment in order to be more analytical about the everyday happenings that unknowingly govern our lives.