REVIEW ESSAY


Reviewed by Antonella Cortese, PhD, International and Heritage Languages Association, Edmonton, AB.

As a long graduated doctoral student, this text would have been a considerable and useful tool to begin understanding, learning and consequently, employing the best qualitative and/or quantitative method(s) for inquiry and research.

Each chapter presented by the authors of this edited text clearly outlines each facet comprising action research. Written for the novice researcher and graduate student, each author goes into great detail in a concise, easy to read manner, employing educational and community based settings, presenting a review of the research methodology literature.

Bookended by the first and final chapters, respectively, *Action Research: Before You Dive In, Read This!* (Chapter 1) and *Critique, Advocacy, and Dissemination: I've Got the Data and Findings, Now What?* (Chapter 10) permit the reader to read the chapters most useful without necessarily needing to read them in order or the whole text. Furthering the usefulness of this text, each chapter concludes with a section of *key terms* and *activities* that can be adapted according to the goal of the individual using the text.

Each chapter highlights the components of action research complemented with a clear and substantial review for each: *Interviews* (Chapter 2); *Participant Observation* (Chapter 3); *Visual Research, Visual Data; A Case Study Research in Education* (Chapter 4); (Chapter 5); *Arts Based Research: Data are Constructed, Not Found* (Chapter 6); *The Value of Portfolio Data in Action Research* (Chapter 7); *Quantitative Methods* (Chapter 8), and *Program Evaluation Research* (Chapter 9). Reading the chapters, the novice researcher will also appreciate the practice around which the theory(ies) action research is explained. In this
way, the chapters outline the specifics and concerns to be taken into account when deciding the “Why?” and “What for?” of the research to be undertaken.

This is an exceptionally useful text for individuals undertaking graduate study and professors teaching a research seminar and/or graduate seminar.