Introduction to Action Research Review Sheet

The Literature Review

- Purposes:
- Find out what is known
- Reflect critically on what is known
- Identify gaps in the research
- Identify areas of disagreement in the research
- Relate ideas from different research areas

The Literature Review Draft

What it should include:

- Overview of your topic and problem and how you came to it.
- Relationship to Endeavor
- Relationship to national educational priorities
- Integration of research on the topic (can be secondary sources)

"I call it, 'Research Paper Lite.' It contains a third fewer facts, but you'd never know it."

Identifying and Limiting the Topic

- Considerations
  - Interests
  - Time
  - Difficulty
  - Measurability
- Focus On:
  - Quality Not Quantity
  - Telling the story
  - 25 Page Max

Some "Do's" for the Lit Review

- Do some searching around first.
- First think broadly about your topic, then narrow it down a bit.
- Note key authors that frequently appear.
- Include readings used in other Endeavor courses.
- Create an outline before writing that outlines major themes.
- Organize your findings around major ideas.

Some Lit Review "Don'ts"

- Don't summarize articles. Reflect critically on them and describe the relevance to your topic.
- Don't overquote. Use quotes very sparingly, instead use your own words to describe the importance of studies.
- Don't write a full thesis, or barely scratch the surface. A good rule of thumb is around 10 pages for the draft. Not 2. Not 50.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help – from me, your peers, etc.

CLASSROOM ACTION RESEARCH

Techniques for Gathering Data

1. **Interviews** with students, parents, teachers
2. **Checklists** of skills, behaviors, abilities, movement, procedures, interactions, resources
3. **Portfolios** of a range of work from students of different abilities around a particular topic; a representation of a total experience; a collection of documents for analy
4. **Individual files** of students' work (e.g., tapes, samples of work, art work, memos, photos of models/projects, reports), of students' opinions; of student attitudes,
5. **Diaries/journals** written by teachers, students, parents, class groups, teachers
6. **Field notes/observation records** - informal notes written by a teacher
7. **Logs** of meetings, lessons, excursions, school expectations, material used
8. **Student-teacher discussion/interaction** - records of comments and thoughts generated by students
9. **Questionnaires** of attitudes, opinions, preferences, information
10. **Audiotapes** of meetings, discussions in class or about data gathered, games, group work, interviews, whole class groups, monologues, readings, lectures, demonstr
11. **Videotapes** of classrooms, lessons, groups, demonstrations, a day in a school, lunch times
12. **Still photography** of groups working, classrooms, faces, particular students over time, at fixed intervals in a lesson
13. **Time-on-task analysis** of students, teachers; over a lesson, a day, a week