Planning your classroom-based research project

Step 1: Defining a research question

> *Use this space to write down a tentative research question*

Before we move on... evaluate your research question against the following criteria:

- Can I find actual data that answer the research question by looking into my classroom practice, my students or myself? ☐
- Do I have access to the resources I need to answer this question? ☐
- Can this question be answered in a reasonable timeframe? ☐
- Can the findings be used to inform practice? ☐

Step 2: Thinking about the pedagogical utility of the research project

Think of all the people, including yourself, who stand to benefit from your findings. Write them in the left-hand column. Then, use the right-hand column to briefly explain how they might benefit from your research.

My study is useful to...	because...

Step 3: Thinking about methods

Think about the advantages of different research methods, with reference to your research question. Record your thoughts in the table below, and use them to guide your selection of the most appropriate research method.

Data generation method	Advantages	Drawbacks
Questionnaire survey		
Questionnaire survey with open ended questions		
Interview		
Classroom observation		
Diary study		
Other...		

List the steps necessary to conduct your research project. Then decide on when each step will take place. Use the example below to guide you.

Example: a questionnaire-based project

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Planning the project • *Decide on research questions* • *Read-up on questionnaire design* • *Obtain permissions*	▓					
Designing and piloting (: testing) a data generation instrument • *Write a draft questionnaire* • *Ask two friends to pilot and give feedback* • *Rewrite questionnaire*		▓				
Generating data • *Discuss project w/students* • *Administer questionnaire (homework)*			▓			
Analysing the data • *Collect questionnaires* • *Use MS-Excel to record answers* • *Create graphs to help understand data* • *Think about what the data show & draw conclusions*				▓	▓	
Sharing your findings • *Create a poster showing most important findings*						▓

Planning the project						
Designing and piloting (: testing) a data generation instrument						
Generating data						
Analysing the data						
Sharing your findings						