Action Research Outline

**Question**

Clear and simple
No pre-judgment

Try to focus your question on some aspect of student achievement. If framed properly, your question will help you determine which research tools to use. Do not use yes/no questions or questions in which you already know the answer.

**Context, Rationale, and Review of Literature**

Clear and simple
Broad scale reasons
Bigger picture?

This is the place where you describe the *context* of your study and your reasons for conducting it. Reference to other research is appropriate here. Read about the issue you are studying and possible research methods you could use. When you are doing your study and new questions emerge, you will be adding to this section.

**Tools**

Reasons for using tools
What can you learn from that tool?
Research methods
Rationale
Appropriateness
Triangulation (3 tools)

You will start with one or two tools that you feel comfortable with. The data you draw from these will lead you into employing other tools. Look to other research for appropriate tools.

**Data**

What did you learn from each tool that you used?
Best way to represent data
Summary

Once you have decided on the research tools you will use, you will begin to collect data. Periodically, you should reflect and see if the data you are collecting is giving you helpful information about your
topic. If there are other questions emerging, you should think about adding new tools and using old tools in new ways.

**Analysis**

How is my data connected to my background research?

Analysis follows on the heels of data collection. As you decide which pieces of data to include in your study, you will need to make decisions about which pieces of data support the case you are making. This is the *beginning* of analysis. Analysis is the presentation of the big picture and the discussion of what it might mean. It requires that you take time looking at your data, arranging it in different ways, and seeing what kinds of answers to your questions it is providing.

**Summary and Conclusion**

How will my practice change as a teacher?
What will I do differently in my classroom?

Once you have done an analysis of your data, you should step back, look at the questions you posed, and ask yourself what you learned about your students, your teaching, and yourself. Your conclusion should be grounded in the data you have presented and should come as no surprise to the reader. You will steadily build your case as you shape your study.

**Don’t Forget to Cite your Sources**

It doesn’t matter if you use ALA or MLA, just give credit where credit is due.

**Need Examples?**

Action Research PowerPoint

[http://ed369a.pbworks.com/Examples%C2%A0of%C2%A0Action%C2%A0Research-Projects](http://ed369a.pbworks.com/Examples%C2%A0of%C2%A0Action%C2%A0Research-Projects)

Action Research in Report form

[http://www.nefstem.org/action_research_journals.htm](http://www.nefstem.org/action_research_journals.htm)