

ACTIVITY 5.1: OPEN-ENDED SENTENCES

Time: 45–60 minutes

Materials: Handout: “Seven Sentences That Capture How I Feel About Data Collection and Designing My Inquiry,” newsprint, markers

Step 1: After reading Chapter 5, ask participants to complete Handout: “Seven Sentences That Capture How I Feel About Data Collection and Designing My Inquiry.” (10–15 minutes)

Step 2: Break participants into groups of four. In round-robin fashion, have each member of the group share one of his or her completed sentences with group members. Repeat this procedure three more times so that each member of the group has shared all of his or her completed sentences with group members. As each person shares one of his or her completed sentences, there is no comment or discussion. Rather, each person states one selected sentence, followed by the second person in the group, the third person, and finally, the fourth person. (10 minutes)

Step 3: After seven rounds of sharing, have group members discuss common themes that they noticed across all their statements, jotting these themes on chart paper to report out to the whole group. (10 minutes)

Step 4: Ask each group to designate a reporter and allot each reporter a specified amount of time to share his or her group’s themes with the entire group. The amount of time you spend on this step is dependent on the number of groups you are working with. (approximately 15 minutes)

Step 5: Debrief the experience around the question, “What implications does what we learned about our feelings regarding data collection have for inquiry design?”

See the handout “Seven Sentences That Capture How I Feel About Data Collection and Designing My Inquiry” that follows.

SEVEN SENTENCES THAT CAPTURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT DATA COLLECTION AND DESIGNING MY INQUIRY

Directions: In Chapter 5 of *The Reflective Educator's Guide to Classroom Research*, 10 data collection strategies for teacher researchers are described:

1. Field notes
2. Documents/artifacts/student work
3. Interviews
4. Focus groups
5. Digital pictures
6. Video as data
7. Reflective journals/blogs
8. Surveys
9. Quantitative measures of student achievement (standardized test scores, assessment measures, grades)
10. Critical Friends Group feedback

Complete the following sentences in relation to these data collection strategies.

1. One word that captures how I feel about all these data collection strategies is

_____. I chose this word because _____

2. I was surprised that _____
could be considered a form of data!

3. The easiest data collection strategy for me to use as a teacher researcher would be

_____ because _____

4. The most difficult data collection strategy for me to use as a teacher researcher is _____ because _____

5. The thing I find most interesting about data collection for the teacher researcher is _____

6. One thing that puzzles me about data collection for the teacher researcher is _____

7. As I design my first inquiry, I will be sure to _____
