Activity 3.1: Open-Ended Sentences

Time: 45–60 minutes

Materials: Handout 4: Seven Sentences That Capture How I Feel About Data Collection and Designing My Inquiry, chart paper, markers

Step 1: After reading Chapter 3, ask participants to complete Handout 4: Seven Sentences That Capture How I Feel About Data Collection and Designing My Inquiry. (10–15 minutes)

Step 2: Break into groups of four. In round-robin fashion, each member of the group shares one of their completed sentences with group members. Repeat this procedure three more times so that each member of the group has shared all of their completed sentences with group members. As each person shares one of their 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, 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 their group's themes with the entire group. The amount of time you spend on this step is dependent upon 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?"

Handout 4: Seven Sentences That Capture How I Feel About Data Collection and Designing My Inquiry

Directions: In Chapter 3 of *The Reflective Educator's Guide to Practitioner Inquiry* (5th edition), 10 data collection strategies for teacher–researchers are described:

1. Student Work and Other Instructional Artifacts

2. Field Notes

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. Colleague Feedback

Complete the following sentences in relationship 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 _____

_____

_____

_____

_____