

You have quite a challenge before you for the rest of the semester—designing your own Action Research process. But I think you can be pleasantly surprised by looking at how much you have learned through the compressed AR activity.

To do that, I'm going to lead you in a **focused conversation**. This is a series of questions that begin with concrete things you observed and move through feelings and associations, on to interpretations and finally get to the overall implications. The idea is to avoid jumping to conclusions or holding on to preformed opinions; instead stay open to forming new conclusions on the basis of hearing everyone's contributions—including your own—to the earlier questions. So try not to answer a question that hasn't yet been asked.

This is not a conventional discussion. Instead of directly addressing what someone has said before you, the idea is to contribute to a pool of responses and to gain insight from listening to what others contribute. We want each person to be heard, so keep your answers to the questions short and pithy—even telegraphic. No speeches or disputing particular speaker's contributions.

I'm not the teacher now, but a neutral facilitator, so don't look to me for endorsement of answers. Instead listen to what others say. Provided you're responding to the question that was asked, there are no wrong answers—there is insight in every answer.

Objective Questions = concrete things, actually observable by all

What are the main parts of the Action Research process?

What are useful tools in the Action Research process?

Reflective Questions = associations and feelings

What was relatively easy for you to do?

What felt difficult?

What similar experiences come to mind?

Interpretive Questions = meaning and significance

What skills and resources did you bring to the project?

What skills and resources were you missing?

What issues need to be resolved?

Decisional questions = implications for the future [on board or flip chart]

What tasks do you plan to undertake this week?

What guidance will you seek?

Closing: I'm always impressed with what happens when people combine their insights. I'll type up the notes and email them to you by tomorrow.

But for now, let's close this conversation and call it a day.