

Research Planning Audit
(from Clough & Nutbrown, 2002)

<p>What is the topic of my action research?</p>	<p>Remember that social research sets out to achieve something. Does your topic enable you to make a difference to something or someone?</p>	
<p>Why have I chosen this topic?</p>	<p>Previous Research (the literature) Have you reviewed the literature sufficiently to know where your chosen topic is positioned within the field? Which particular literature stimulated your choice of topic?</p> <p>Professional Relevance (current work) Are there professional/personal reasons or policy contexts which stimulate this research? What will your study achieve in this respect?</p> <p>Other Reasons Is the study commissioned by funders of an agency /employer paying for your course fees? If so clarity about this is important. Do you still need to identify other stimuli and a research/professionally related rationale? Does your reason for choice of topic seem sufficient to sustain you through the completion of the study?</p>	
<p>Are my reasons good enough?</p>	<p>Pros</p>	<p>Cons</p>

<p>What are my research questions?</p>	<p>State your questions clearly and precisely so that they are not too narrow or broad, and that they are questions upon which research can be built.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. <p>(remember that these questions will allow you to maintain control over the research)</p>
<p>Where do these questions come from?</p>	<p>Identify the relationship between your questions and existing work in the field as well as professional stimuli.</p>
<p>How am I able to justify the research questions?</p>	<p>Draw on your research journal (i.e., BLOG), the literature, and your professional/personal contexts to write a strong justification for each of your research questions. If you find it difficult or impossible to justify a question then consider revising or rejecting it.</p>
<p>Where will I do the research?</p>	<p>Clearly describe your field of action? <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Have I negotiated access to the research setting? How? What?</p>	<p>Be clear with all involved about the access negotiated. Be sure that key people know about your work and the conditions negotiated. Clarify the ethics of your role as researcher.</p>
<p>When will I do the research? Is my timetable realistic?</p>	<p>Create a timetable that suits both your professional and academic needs, as well as the needs of your subjects.</p>

<p>What methods will I use to investigate the research questions?</p>	
<p>How can I justify the methods?</p>	<p>This is a crucial question. Research methods are justifiable only in so far as they help you to respond to the research questions. What have other researchers done in the past? How have other similar issues been investigated? Does the literature help justify your selection? Will your methods enable your to conduct a study that is <i>pervasive, purposive, positional, and political</i>?</p>
<p>What the ethical considerations? How are they addressed?</p>	<p>Informed consent? Minimal risk? Rights to privacy?</p>
<p>Is there anything I need to rethink?</p>	<p>Here are a few prompts: Are your research questions sufficiently clear? Are they robust? Do they reflect previous research in the field?</p> <p>Are your methods appropriate to the study? Will they enable you to respond to the research questions?</p> <p>Can you fulfill your research plan in the timescale available?</p> <p>Is your location appropriate?</p>
<p>What is my first/next step?</p>	
<p>What help do I need?</p>	<p>Make a list of those who can help you, including your supervisor</p>
<p>Who do call?</p>	<p>Contact info for those in the previous question, as well as contact info for your resources (e.g., what is the renewal policy at your library? What are its hours?)</p>