
4

The Self-Study Methodology

Why and How

The greatest discovery from learning this methodology is related to data sources. Using art and visual representations allowed me to take a step back from the traditional text-based data sources in a safe environment. I didn't think I could do memory work at all, and even told classmates that I had a hard time remembering events. However, as soon as I started staring at old photographs from twenty years ago, I was able to recall some specific details. How exciting and freeing to learn that I am no longer bound by text. I never anticipated or appreciated the substance to visuals until completing this proposal.

—Tamie L. Pratt-Fartro (2007), *Reading Specialist*,
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CHAPTER DESCRIPTION

This chapter describes the self-study research methodology framed within a discussion of the culture of self-study. In this chapter, the Five Foci, or the methodological components of self-study, are first introduced: personal situated inquiry, critical collaborative inquiry, improved learning, transparent research process, and knowledge generation and presentation. Each of these methodological components is revisited in later chapters.

◆ Reading this chapter will provide an opportunity for you to become familiarized with the methodological components of self-study research, which are essential to understand in enacting a quality self-study research project.