
Self-Study Methods

Why and How

Putting the coursework into a portfolio linked to the replicable to share with peers and was quite useful. The portfolio is easy to share with others and would be helpful to persons that are new to self-study to get a grasp of what it is all about.

—Deanna Breslin (2006), *Research Analyst*

CHAPTER DESCRIPTION

This chapter introduces various self-study methods that have been developed by self-study scholars, although it is not limited to these. You will find examples from students who found the methods useful. You will be introduced to the Critical Friends Portfolio, a developmental portfolio self-study method that is recommended as a manageable starting place for teachers new to self-study research. In this chapter, you will also be introduced to other self-study methods: personal history self-study method, living educational theory, collective self-study method, arts-based self-study method, and memory work self-study method. The examples are provided to assist you in seeing the applicability of each method as well as the diversity of methods. You will also find a chart of self-study research conducted by scholars who have employed various self-study methods to better understand their practice.

What is so fascinating about the self-study research methodology to me is that it entails multiple and diverse self-study methods. I had a front seat in observing my self-study colleagues create and enact various self-study methods over the years. What excitement watching Claudia Mitchell and Sandra Weber enact their memory work self-study in their academic literacy performance on a stage at the Castle Conference in 2002. I too had found ways to include drama in my work with teachers, but their work brought first-person self-study into a clearer focus for me.