



CRITICAL FRIEND INQUIRY 11.3



11.1 Self-Study Research Guidepost

Table 11.1 Self-Assessment and Critical Friend Assessment of Five Foci

Focus	Methodological Component	Self-Assessment	Critical Friend(s) Assessment
<p>Personal Situated Inquiry</p>	<p><i>Self-study teachers initiate and study their own inquiry in their classroom and utilize a self-study method aligned with that inquiry.</i></p> <p>Self-study is a self-initiated inquiry of practice and draws from a practitioner's experience. Self-study scholars can choose from various self-study methods to inquire into their practice, explore who they are as a researcher, and self-assess their practice. They consider the role culture plays in their theories and practices to assess its impact.</p>	<p>Did you clearly articulate your research question?</p> <p>Does your research question draw from your authority and experiences as a practitioner?</p> <p>Did you design a manageable inquiry with extended opportunities for change?</p> <p>Is the inquiry driven and generated from your questions situated in your particular context?</p> <p>Does the research have immediate utility to your setting and to others' work?</p> <p>Have you adequately described your context so readers might consider the generalizability and implications of your findings to their contexts?</p> <p>Did you thoroughly describe any historical information that is pertinent to this research?</p>	<p>___ Yes</p> <p>___ No</p> <p>___ Developing Critique:</p>
<p>Critical Collaborative Inquiry</p>	<p><i>Self-study teachers work in an intellectually safe and supportive community to</i></p>	<p>Have you involved critical friends in your inquiry?</p>	<p>___ Yes</p> <p>___ No</p>

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	<p><i>improve their practice by making it explicit to themselves and to others through critical collaborative inquiries.</i></p> <p>Collaboration contributes to a validation of findings because the analysis extends beyond one's personal views, thus addressing potential biases. Paradoxically, self-study is both personal and interpersonal. It is the community that helps extend an individual's understanding. Critical friends encourage and solicit respectful questioning and divergent views to gain alternative perspectives. Critical friend teams serve as a validation group to provide feedback on the quality and legitimacy of each other's claims.</p>	<p>Is the exchange among critical friends in the learning community respectful, constructive, and bidirectional?</p> <p>Did you describe the role critical friends played in supporting and validating your research?</p> <p>How did your critical friends help you test your analysis, thinking, and interpretations?</p> <p>Is there evidence that you reframed your thinking from the critical friend input?</p> <p>How did your critical friends' responses contribute to your analysis and reframed thinking?</p> <p>What was it like to have a critical friend and to be one?</p>	<p>___ Developing Critique:</p>
<p>Improved Learning</p>	<p><i>Self-study teachers question the status quo of their teaching and the politics of schooling in order to improve and impact learning for themselves, their students, and the education field.</i></p> <p>Self-study research can support and inform school and program reform and impact policy decisions.</p>	<p>Did you provide evidence of the value and impact of your work for those you work with, to yourself, and to others?</p> <p>Did you describe if the knowledge gained in this study improved personal, professional, program, and/or unit development?</p> <p>What is the "so what" of my research?</p> <p>Does your inquiry serve to inform policy and educational reform?</p> <p>Does your inquiry inform social justice issues?</p>	<p>___ Yes ___ No ___ Developing Critique:</p>

(Continued)

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Focus	Methodological Component	Self-Assessment	Critical Friend(s) Assessment
<p>Transparent and Systematic Research Process</p>	<p><i>Self-study requires a transparent research process that clearly and accurately documents the research process through dialogue and critique.</i></p> <p>Self-study includes a hermeneutic spiral of questioning, discovering, framing, reframing, and revisiting. The method you choose for self-study depends a good deal on your questions and the impact you seek to make in your professional practice and education writ large.</p> <p>Self-study necessitates a disposition of openness to outside views, questions, and critique. Self-study teachers strive to make their practice explicit to themselves and to others. The transparency of the research process is enhanced through the review of critical friends who ask probing questions and offer alternative perspectives and interpretations.</p>	<p>Did you clearly explain what data you collected; how you collected them; why you selected them; and when you collected them?</p> <p>Have you explained the theoretical stance to your work?</p> <p>Did you explain why you chose a particular self-study method and how the method allowed you to effectively explore and answer your research question?</p> <p>Did you collect sufficient data from multiple sources and techniques to support your claims?</p> <p>Did you provide detailed documentation of an audit trail of your data analysis?</p> <p>Did you include a discussion documenting the adequacy of data collection and analysis?</p> <p>Did you discuss the quality control procedures and the steps you took toward establishing trustworthiness of your self-study?</p> <p>Did you describe the role that critical friends played in the validation of your findings?</p> <p>Did you provide evidence of reflective reframing and transformative thinking?</p> <p>Did you return to answering your research questions in your findings?</p>	<p>___ Yes ___ No ___ Developing Critique:</p>

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		<p>Since self-study is a hermeneutic process with spiral questioning, did you explain how your research led to refined or new research questions?</p> <p>Were you critical of yourself in your research role?</p> <p>Were you willing to share your concerns?</p> <p>Were you willing to receive constructive criticism?</p> <p>Were you open to new ideas and different perspectives?</p> <p>Did you reflect on your role as both researcher and researched?</p> <p>Did you share this self-assessment with your critical friends?</p>	
<p>Knowledge Generation and Presentation</p>	<p><i>Self-study research generates knowledge that is made public through presentation and publication.</i></p> <p>Self-study research contributes broadly to the knowledge base of personal, professional, program, and school development. Making the study public allows it to be available for review and critique. It contributes to the accumulation of content- and issue-based knowledge and serves to build validation across related work.</p>	<p>Did you provide a discussion on what new knowledge was generated from your research?</p> <p>Did you note what your study contributes to the field at large?</p> <p>In what way(s) did you share your research, or how do you intend to make your research public for review and critique?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Developing Critique:</p>