



## Advice from a Self-Study Scholar

### Critical Colleagues

Knowing how to differ professionally, passionately, and constructively is critical if self-study researchers are to question the status quo and reach new understandings of teacher education. Knowledge communities are defined and strengthened as much by dilemmas as by their agreements, and as Common (1994) observed, "Differences are essential to knowledge of complex topics within a community diverse in experiences, interests and aspirations" (p. 266). However, conflict has also fractured communities, silenced voices, and outlawed sensitive topics. Understanding the resilient and strong forms of collaborative conversation that will persevere in the face of complex, conflictual viewpoints and harsh realities will be equally important to self-study researchers who wish to take a critical and transformative stance in their research (adapted from Bodone, Guðjónsdóttir, and Dalmau, 2004).

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