



Advice from a Self-Study Scholar

The Importance of Self-Study Research

The life force of self-study is the personalization of learning, but not the self-indulgence of learning. Self-study researchers are not interested in producing feel-good educational research where everything turns out wonderful because the researcher says so. Instead, self-study researchers are deeply intent in looking deeply, closely, and clearly at the unvarnished truth. Questions are not so much answered as new questions are engendered as a result of a valid inquiry into one's own teaching practices and/or the study of an educational policy. This constant ambiguity, the inability to underline truth with certainty but to clarify it with estimated solutions and educated assumptions, is what makes self-study a dynamic and ever-evolving research tool and a valid and living thesis for this text. Without self-knowledge, there can be no self-doubt, and without self-doubt, there can be no real teaching.

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