

Conclusion

References

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Questions for Consideration

1. What is naturalistic inquiry?
2. How is naturalistic inquiry different from qualitative research? why make a distinction between the two?
3. What is disciplined inquiry?
4. Can naturalistic inquiry be disciplined? Why should it be?
5. How compatible are disciplined inquiry and naturalistic inquiry with your assumptions?
6. What does each of the following axioms mean to you personally?
 - a. Regarding the nature of reality, the naturalistic paradigm holds that realities are multiple, constructed, and holistic rather than single, tangible, and fragmentable.
 - b. Regarding the relationship of the inquirer and the thing being inquired into, the naturalistic paradigm holds that the knower and the known are interactive, inseparable rather than independent, a dualism.
 - c. Regarding the possibility of generalization from a study, the naturalistic paradigm holds that only time and context-bound working hypotheses (idiographic statements) are possible rather than time and context-free generalizations (nomothetic statements).
 - d. Regarding the possibility of establishing causal linkages through research studies, the naturalistic paradigm holds that all entities are in a state of mutual simultaneous shaping, so that it is impossible to distinguish causes from effects rather than claiming that there are real causes, temporally precedent to or simultaneous with their effects.
 - e. Regarding the role of values in inquiry, the naturalistic paradigm holds that inquiry is value-bound and not value-free.
7. How would you use these axioms to help you decide if a potential research problem you wanted to study could be approached using naturalistic inquiry?
8. What is your stand on these axioms or beliefs as they relate to the research problems (the perplexities or anomalies) you are thinking about in your own work?
9. What are some of the distinguishing characteristics of qualitative inquiry?
10. How would you describe the general process for conducting a qualitative study?
11. How would you answer the following questions about qualitative inquiry:
 - a. Is it scientific? Rigorous?
 - b. How can teachers use it to help them in their work?
 - c. Are findings from this kind of inquiry generalizable?
 - d. Isn't it more subjective than other kinds of research?
 - e. When would you use it instead of other kinds of research?
 - f. Is it reliable?
 - g. How is it different from quantitative methods?

Suggested Activities

1. Look at the vignette you wrote for Chapter One, Activity #3, describing an event in your practice. Ponder the assumptions underlying what you observed and your observation of it. These questions might help:
 1. What did you expect to see?
 2. Of all the things you could have seen why was your attention drawn to this way of seeing it?
 3. What was your agenda?
 4. What were the other participants' agendas?
 5. Why did you do what you did?
 6. Why do you think the other participants did what they did?
2. Work your way through these issues in writing. Designate this as being separate from the observations in your field note record. [I use OC for Observer Comment.]
3. What questions did this chapter raise for you?



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