## What Is Action Research?

Action research is a method used to identify problems or weaknesses and to test hypothesis about how to overcome those challenges. This educational practice allows teachers to quickly and reliably understand problems within their classroom or program, in order to implement solutions that result in better functioning of the class.

## What Is The Action Research Process?

Action research isn't formalized research, but it still follows a specific process. To use this method teachers or educational researchers first identify a problem. Then, they collect data on this problem, and interpret what that information might mean. Using the information they've gleaned, they develop a plan to address the problem, and implement the plan. Then, they evaluate how that solution has worked, identify any new problems that have arisen, and begin the cycle over again to address those issues.

Generating Alternatives (Literature Review)

For this assignment, research best practices related to your proposed topic and develop a literature review using scholarly, peer-reviewed articles. The purpose of this review is to identify research-based strategies and practices in the literature that can be used as solutions for addressing a problem or an issue related to the proposed topic for your study in your classroom or professional setting. This assignment will allow you to consider strategies that you might implement later in your action research plan. For more information, refer to the Review Related Literature section of the Digital Action Research Plan media piece, where you have been collecting information.

**Research Topic:**

**Early childhood education: learning through play.** We already discussed the importance of education in the development of our society. You see, the personality and mindset of a person are developed in the first years of their lives. Early childhood education is the foundation for the rest of the child’s life.

Instructions

The requirements for your Unit 8 written assignment are as follows:

1. Locate a minimum of eight articles and online resources related to best practices for your proposed topic. These articles must have been published within the last five years. The majority of these resources must be empirical articles. An empirical article is one in which the author has conducted a study about a particular instructional practice and is reporting the results.
2. Organize your literature review into sections that present themes or identify trends, including learning theories, theoretical or conceptual frameworks, instructional strategies, and trends related to your proposed topic. These are just examples.
3. Your literature review should be 5 pages, written in APA format using in-text citations, with at least eight corresponding references.

Additional Requirements

The assignment you submit is expected to meet the following requirements:

* Written communication: Written communication is free of errors that detract from the overall message.
* APA formatting: Resources, citations, title page, running head, and reference page are all formatted according to the current APA style and formatting standards.
* Cited resources: Minimum of eight scholarly sources. All literature cited should be current, published within the past five years.
* Length of paper: 5double-spaced pages (plus a cover page and a reference page).
* Font and font size: Times New Roman, 12 point.