



VIRTUAL BRONZE EXPLORATION

STAGE 5 – ACTION RESEARCH PROPOSAL

– SOME TIPS

The Research Project (Exploration) as set out in this Virtual Bronze Exploration should be a form of “Action research”. This is simply a way of systematically thinking about what goes on in your classroom, school, or community, and how you might develop interventions or gather data that will help you improve the experiences of the individuals within those communities.

The following steps will help you design and present your research project:

1. Observation – Reflect on the events happening within your classroom, school, or community. Use these observations to help explain the need for this research. Work as a group to help identify the issue you plan to research and ensure all group members feel able to contribute some personal experience of some aspect of the topic e.g. Theme - Covid-19’s impact on society: Personal Experience - what has it meant to me as a young woman?

2. Research Question – Develop key questions based on your observations. Make sure they are specific and relevant. Start with multiple questions that your chosen topic throws up and then tailor them into one question that all of you would like to find out more about. Example of a research question: What have been the impacts of the COVID-19 restrictions/lockdown on 15-year-old young women who live in rural Ontario?

3. Background research – Check the research. Is there enough online information to inform the whole group and to give you topics to discuss.

4. Hypothesis – Will you be testing a group theory or belief? Based on the research you did, what do you think the answer might be? Did the research suggest any ways to answer your question? Example of a hypothesis: The coronavirus outbreak [increases existing inequalities](#) for women and girls in rural Ontario.

5. Data gathering – Develop a draft plan that will show where your group will gather information and either test your hypothesis or answer your question. What resources will you use to assist you with your project? Do you have reference books, any contacts you could interview (by phone or virtually), will you use any particular types of online resources e.g. using social media to engage others in debate, using any core materials e.g. UN Sustainable Development Goals website.

6. Implementation – How will you collect your data? What is the timeframe, who is the target population, what controls will you use to protect yourself (see section on cyber security) and others, how will you fulfill your ethical responsibilities to anyone’s personal data? E.g. Will you need anyone’s permission to share their story?

7. Analysis –How will you analyze your data? This is a group exercise and the groups discussion activities are intended as the primary means of discussing, sharing and analyzing what conclusions are to go into the final report. These discussions should be documented.

8. Dissemination – what is the format for your final report e.g. presentation, written report. Have you included an explanation of the steps you took and what each group member did and what conclusions you all reached.