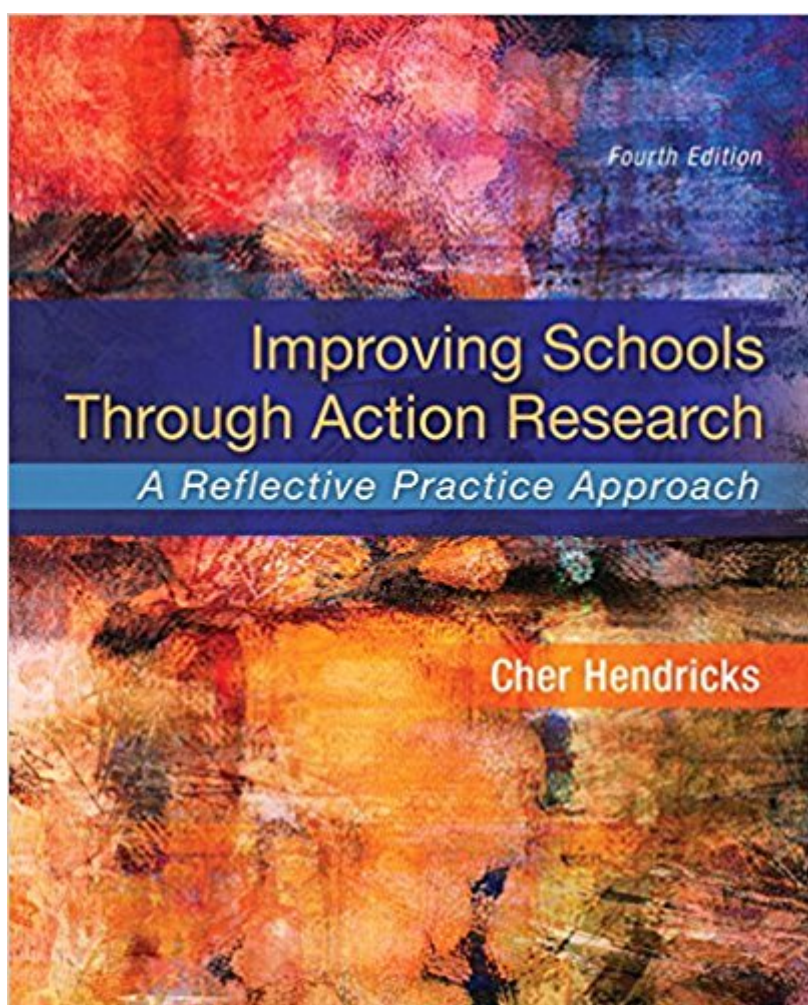


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# Improving Schools Through Action Research: A Reflective Practice Approach (4th Edition)



## Synopsis

Note: This is the bound book only and does not include access to the Enhanced Pearson eText. To order the Enhanced Pearson eText packaged with a bound book, use ISBN 0134027426. **A** brief, user-friendly, solid look at the action research cycle and the knowledge to work through each step. In Cher Hendricks's *Improving Schools Through Action Research*, educators learn what they need to know about the action research cycle and get practical help for working through each step of the cycle "from choosing a topic and generating research questions to analyzing data and reporting results and conclusions. In a clear, concise, user-friendly approach, the author helps readers through the entire process with specific, practical information that incorporates some of the latest online and professional resources, a more detailed explanation of how to analyze and interpret qualitative data, and instructions on formatting the research paper using the latest APA guidelines. The Enhanced Pearson eText features embedded videos and tutorials. **Improve** mastery and retention with the Enhanced Pearson eText\* The Enhanced Pearson eText provides a rich, interactive learning environment designed to improve student mastery of content. The Enhanced Pearson eText is: **Engaging.** The new interactive, multimedia learning features were developed by the authors and other subject-matter experts to deepen and enrich the learning experience. **Convenient.** Enjoy instant online access from your computer or download the Pearson eText App to read on or offline on your iPad® and Android® tablet.\* **Affordable.** The Enhanced Pearson eText may be purchased stand-alone for 50-60% less than a print bound book. \* The Enhanced eText features are only available in the Pearson eText format. They are not available in third-party eTexts or downloads. \*The Pearson eText App is available on Google Play and in the App Store. It requires Android OS 3.1-4, a 7" or 10" tablet, or iPad iOS 5.0 or later. **A A**

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"Jill Miels, Ball State University "Key strengths are the examples and sample narratives; . . . projects threaded through the text provide a unifying connection of applications of the process for teachers. . . . [T]he last chapter provides much needed guidance for dissemination of research study results through presentations and publications."

"Reese H. Todd, Texas Tech University "The strength of the text is accessibility and clarity. The text takes students through the steps of creating an action research project in clear and concise language. Hendricks does an excellent job of providing an appropriate balance of support and challenge for student teachers/action researchers. Hendricks explains complicated topics and concepts in a user friendly manner without sacrificing the intent and underlying meaning of the concepts. Great text for anyone who wants to learn more about constructing their own knowledge and improving schools through action research."

"Jason Colombino, Boston College Lynch School of Education

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A thorough, step by step guide on how to conduct your own professional, Action Research in a school setting.

I had to buy this book for a graduate school class. The book is repetitive, very very very very repetitive. This could have been a much smaller book, almost a pamphlet, but I guess they needed to make money. You won't buy this for leisure reading. And most of the material is common sense, but it could be worse.

I read this book (and a few others) last semester in preparation of writing an action paper this semester. This was my favorite book. It will be my go-to resource as I gather/organize data and write the final piece. Another plus: the book is small and light-weight. I don't mind always keeping it in my backpack.

\$60+ for a paperback text. I would rather the author self publish an electronic version for \$20.

I can only see two reasons someone would pick this book up: 1st and the most likely, this book is the reading requirement for a university's course and you have to read it. 2nd, you are an educator that is very adamant about making your teaching more efficient and effective. Hendricks goes through a step by step process on how to start/finish an Action Research. An Action Research is a systematic process by which an educator reflects upon an assumption or a problem on the classroom, building, or district level. From this reflection, the educator researches peer-reviewed literature called a (oddly enough) literature review. From the literature review, Hendricks reviews methodological process for designing and implementing the Action Research. Lastly, Hendricks ends the book with an appropriate How-To on writing the Action Research. While I have not read any other books on how to design and implement an Action Research, I am confident enough to say

this: This is the book to grab if an educator has absolutely no experience with Action Research. For all intensive purposes, this book should be titled Action Research 101. The book assumes the reader needs all basic knowledge on Action Research. The reader not only learns the step by step process described above, but the reader also is exposed intently to vocabulary that is Action Research. You will learn about quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methodological approaches, the importance of triangulating your data sources, the differences behind the reliability and validity of research, the different types of validity, and more. This is a must-grab book for educators seriously wanting to make a positive impact in their classroom. If I had to negatively critique this book, this is what bugs me: In my opinion, Chapter 7, Strategies for Data Analysis was a bit rudimentary for the target audience of this book. Hendricks described how to find the mean from a set of data. Since the target audience of this book is at least educators who've graduated college, I would assume everyone would have the knowledge of finding a mean.

Ms. Hendricks thoroughly explains the Action Research process, and others. A very useful tool for school administrators and others wishing to seek insight into the process of A.R.

Great introductory book on action research.

I am really enjoying the book. It is so practical.

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