Assignment 7 – Data Collection Plan and Ethical Consideration

The goals of this assignment are to (a) learn about data collection techniques of action research, (b) begin thinking about the kinds of data that will help answer your research question(s), and (c) consider the ethical implications of data collection.

**Part 1 Reading:** The purpose of the reading is to introduce you to data collection techniques.
- Read Chapter 3 from Mills (2007).

**Part 2 Reflection:** The purpose of this activity is to consider how you will collect data during your action research project.
- Identify and write the research questions you currently plan to investigate in your action research project.
- Identify the variables involved in the questions. (Typically, the innovation is considered your independent variable and the desired outcome(s) is(are) considered your dependent variables.)
- What data collection techniques will you use to answer each of your research questions?
- What data collection instruments do you need to locate or develop?
- Complete a triangulation matrix (given below) for your planned study. (Reminder: Do not force the issue of three data sources for each question. In some cases you may have more than three data sources that you wish to use, and in other cases it may not be possible to include more than one data source. For example, standardized test scores.)

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<th>Research Questions</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
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Part 3 Further Reading: The purpose of the reading is to introduce you to the ideas of ethical treatment of human subjects in research from several different sources.

- Read Chapter 5 from Mills (2007)
- Read the AERA Ethical Guidelines for Research Populations, Educational Institutions, and the Public

Part 4 Application: The purpose of this writing is to consider the ethical treatment of students during action research.

- AERA (2004) assures teacher researchers saying,
  Standards intended to protect the rights of human subjects should not be interpreted to prohibit teacher research, action research, and/or other forms of practitioner inquiry so long as: the data are those that could be derived from normal teaching/learning processes; confidentiality is maintained; the safety and welfare of participants are protected; informed consent is obtained when appropriate; and the use of the information obtained is primarily intended for the benefit of those receiving instruction in that setting. (para. 1)

- Write a brief paper (no more than 3 pages, double spaced) addressing the five criteria recommended by AERA (2004) for the protection of students in action research. Specifically, address the following:
  o Explain how the data will be those that could be derived from normal teaching/learning processes (otherwise see bullet #4);
  o Explain how confidentiality of students will be maintained in data analysis and reporting;
  o Explain how the safety and welfare of participants will be protected;
  o Provide a draft of an informed consent form (an example consent form is available in the course materials) or explain how informed consent will be obtained when appropriate (e.g., when the data are not derived from the normal teaching/learning processes or if you plan to distribute or publish your research in a form other than the Action Research Project);
  o Explain how the use of the information obtained is primarily intended for the benefit of those receiving instruction in that setting.
Format Requirements

- Please submit your reflection and application responses. They should be typed and double-spaced in an appropriate font. The file should be in Word 2003 format.
- Please include a cover page with your name, the date, the course number and credit number, the assignment number, and your current area of focus.
- The file name for your assignment should be Assign07-Name.doc where Name is your last name (e.g., Assign07-Powers.doc)
- You may submit the assignment via Blackboard or e-mail.

Assignment Rubric

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<td>Did not address any aspect of the prompt in a satisfactory way.</td>
<td>Addresses some but not all aspects of the prompt in a mostly satisfactory way.</td>
<td>Address some but not all aspects of the prompt in a satisfactory way.</td>
<td>Addresses all aspects of the prompt, but some aspects are unsatisfactory.</td>
<td>Addresses all aspects of the prompt in a mostly satisfactory way.</td>
<td>Addresses all aspects of the prompt in a satisfactory way.</td>
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Satisfactory work includes:

- Completing the task on time
- Writing is clear and unambiguous
- Terminology is consistent with the course materials
- Answers are well-thought
- Answers are factually correct
- Opinions are supported by reason