Action Research
MRL Cohort 2013-14
Step-by-Step

1. Complete the Action Research Brainstorming & Planning Sheet.

2. Complete the Project Information sheet and Student/Test Information (Form A) (demographic information) for the experimental and control groups.

3. Design your content test (pre-test & post-test). *Ideally, these are the same, which means that students would not see the corrected pre-test before taking the post-test.*

4. Plan when and how to use the target strategy with the experimental group. *Ideally, the strategy is used throughout a brief unit or time period (e.g. 2 weeks). This does not mean that the strategy must be used each day; rather, the strategy should be used appropriately for the content and activities planned for the unit.*

5. Administer the pre-test to both the control and experimental groups. Record each student's percent correct on the Student Test Information sheet (Form A).

6. Teach the content using the target strategy with the experimental group.

7. Administer the post-test to both the control and experimental groups. Record each student's percent correct on the Student Test Information sheet (Form A).

8. Administer the Student Questionnaire (Form B) appropriate for your grade level to both the control and experimental groups. *This can be done before or after the post-test, but it should happen before students receive their post-test scores*.

9. Complete the Teacher Questionnaire (Form C).

10. Compile all forms and questionnaires in a large envelope and submit to Beth Ericson or Jill Johnson no later than our March 26 MRL cohort session. *We will take any completed projects prior to that date! Paper documents are fine. If you prefer to submit your information electronically, download and use the YPS Action Research spreadsheet from http://yorkcurr.wikispaces.com/MRL+Cohort+12-13#Action Research. Please rename the sheet Action Research – YourProjectID .*

    - Project Information
    - Student / Test Information (Form A) Control Group & Experimental Group
    - Student Questionnaires (Form B) for Control Group (stapled)
    - Student Questionnaires (Form B) for Experimental Group (stapled)
    - Teacher Questionnaire (Form C)

Project Information

Teacher ID _____

Grade Level _____

Subject _____

Topic _____

Timeline _____

Learning Goals

Design **quasi-experimental** **growth** **case study**

Strategy Tested _____

Control Group Description (Who is the control group? Provide a general description of what you did with the control group.)

Experimental Group Description (Who is the experimental group? Provide a general description of what you did with the with the experimental group.)

Research Questions
What do you especially want to explore and study? For example, are you curious about how the strategy works with certain sub-groups (e.g., SPED, HAL)?

Description of Pre/Post Tests (e.g., 20 question mulitple choice test)

Form A
Student / Test Information

Teacher ID Code _____

Experimental Group Scores – Target Instructional Strategy Used

Student	Grade	Gender	Ethnicity	FRL (Y/N)	ELL (Y/N)	Sp. Ed. (Y/N)	Pretest Score	Posttest Score
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
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26								
27								
28								
29								
30								

Ethnicity Code: 1 – Asian, 2 – African American, 3 – Hispanic, 4 – Native American, 5 – Other, 6 – White/Caucasian

Form A (continued)
Student / Test Information

Teacher ID Code

Control Group Scores – Target Instructional Strategy Not Used

Student	Grade	Gender	Ethnicity	FRL (Y/N)	ELL (Y/N)	Sp. Ed. (Y/N)	Pretest Score	Posttest Score
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
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Ethnicity Code: 1 – Asian, 2 – African American, 3 – Hispanic, 4 – Native American, 5 – Other, 6 – White/Caucasian

Form B
Student Questionnaire
(High School Level)

Dear student:

Please complete this questionnaire. Note that there is no place to put your name. This is done intentionally so that you might feel comfortable being perfectly honest in your responses. Since your name will not appear anywhere, no one will be able to trace your responses back to you. We simply want you to give honest responses. Read each sentence and indicate how often each sentence applies to you by putting an X in the appropriate box. Remember to mark **one** box for each sentence.

Teacher ID Code [ ]

Grade: **9** **10** **11** **12** (circle one)

Sex: **Female** **Male** (circle one)

During the past unit/lesson…	**(A) Never**	**(B) Rarely**	**(C) Some of the time**	**(D) Most of the time**
1. …I completed work as instructed by my teacher.				
2. …I reviewed class materials.				
3. …I asked for help when needed.				
4. …I attended class.				
5. …I made up work within the time allotted.				
6. …I stayed on task and focused throughout class.				

7. How much did I learn from the past unit/lesson? (mark one box)

	(A) I have little or no understanding of the material.
	(B) I understand some of the material, but I still have questions.
	(C) I have a general understanding of the material.
	(D) I have a clear understanding of the material and could explain it to a peer.

Form B
Student Questionnaire
(Middle School Level)

Dear student:

Please complete this questionnaire. Note that there is no place to put your name. This is done intentionally so that you might feel comfortable being perfectly honest in your responses. Since your name will not appear anywhere, no one will be able to trace your responses back to you. We simply want you to give honest responses. Read each sentence and indicate how often each sentence applies to you by putting an X in the appropriate box. Remember to mark **one** box for each sentence.

Teacher ID Code [ ]

Grade: **6** **7** **8** (circle one)

Sex: **Female** **Male** (circle one)

During the past unit/lesson…	**(A) Never**	**(B) Rarely**	**(C) Some of the time**	**(D) Most of the time**
1. …I completed work as instructed by my teacher.				
2. …I reviewed class materials.				
3. …I asked for help when needed.				
4. …I attended class.				
5. …I made up work within the time allotted.				
6. …I stayed on task and focused throughout class.				

7. How much did I learn from the past unit/lesson? (mark one box)

	(A) I have little or no understanding of the material.
	(B) I understand some of the material, but I still have questions.
	(C) I have a general understanding of the material.
	(D) I have a clear understanding of the material and could explain it to a peer.

Form B
Student Questionnaire
(Upper Elementary – Grades 3 to 5)

Dear student:

Please answer the questions on this page. Do not put your name on this page. We want you to give an honest answer to these questions. Please read each sentence carefully before answering each question. **Place an X** in the box next to the sentence that best answers each question. If you have any trouble answering a question, please ask your teacher for help. Remember to mark one box for each question.

Teacher ID Code [ ]

Grade: **3** **4** **5** (circle one)

Sex: **Female** **Male** (circle one)

1. How hard did I work during the past unit/lesson? (mark **one** box)

	(A) I did **not** finish my work and I did **not** ask for help when needed.
	(B) I finished **some** of my work and asked for help **some** of the time.
	(C) I finished **most** of my work and asked for help when needed.
	(D) I finished **all** of my work and asked for help when needed.

2. How much did I pay attention during the past unit/lesson? (mark **one** box)

	(A) I had trouble staying on task.
	(B) I stayed on task **some** of the time.
	(C) I stayed on task and focused **most** of the time.
	(D) I stayed on task and focused throughout class.

3. How much did I learn from the past unit/lesson? (mark **one** box)

	(A) I do **not** understand the material.
	(B) I understand **some** of the material and still have some questions.
	(C) I understand **most** of the material.
	(D) I understand the material and could explain it to a friend.

Form B
Student Questionnaire
(Lower Elementary – Grades K to 2)

Dear student:

Do not put your name on this page.

Teacher ID Code [ ]

Grade: **K** **1** **2** (circle one)

Sex: **Boy** **Girl** (circle one)

Please **circle** or **color** your answer.

During the past unit/lesson…

	NO (A)	SOMETIMES (B)	YES (C)
1. I finished my work.	☹	😐	☺
2. I asked for help.	☹	😐	☺
3. I stayed on task.	☹	😐	☺

4. How much did I learn?

☹ (A) I did not learn anything new.

😐 (B) I learned something new but I still have questions.

☺ (C) I learned something new and I can tell a friend about what I learned.

Form C
Teacher Questionnaire

Teacher ID Code [ ]

1. How long have you been teaching? _____ years

2. How long have you used the target instructional strategy in your classroom? _____ months

3. How well did you implement the target instructional strategy in your classroom? (mark **one** box)

	(A) I either did not understand the strategy well or had no clear plan for implementing it.
	(B) I understood the strategy but had an incomplete plan for implementing it.
	(C) I understood the strategy, created a plan for implementing it, and implemented most parts of the plan effectively.
	(D) I understood the strategy, created an effective plan for implementing it, and fully implemented it.

4. Would you use the target instructional strategy again? (mark **one** box)

	(A) Very unlikely
	(B) Only with significant modifications
	(C) Probably, with modifications
	(D) Definitely

5. What have you learned or thought about differently as a result of implementing this strategy?