

Quality Criteria for Action Research Journal

The following seven criteria are the product of ARJ associate editor board members' 'collogue' on what constitutes 'quality in action research.' They represent the criteria upon which there was the highest degree of consensus. Our objective in making these criteria explicit is to be transparent about the qualities that are critical to us as a board of associate editors in evaluating papers. We regard this articulation as a living document that will be reviewed annually. We therefore intend to track the use and usefulness of the criteria for ourselves and our stakeholders. The criteria will replace the set in current use on manuscript central. A much more detailed document about the collogue is available [here](#), along with the ARJ submission guidelines, available [here](#).

Intended Audience: authors and reviewers

1. Articulation of objectives

The extent to which the authors explicitly address the objectives they believe relevant to their work and the choices they have made in meeting those.

2. Partnership and participation

The extent to and means by which the paper reflects or enacts participative values and concern for the relational component of research. By the extent of participation we are referring to a continuum from consultation with stakeholders to stakeholders as full co-researchers.

3. Contribution to action research theory/practice

The extent to which the paper builds on (creates explicit links with) or contributes to a wider body of practice knowledge and or theory, that contributes to the action research literature.

4. Methods and process

The extent to which the action research process and related methods are clearly articulated and illustrated. By illustrated we mean that empirical papers "show" and not just "tell" about process and outcomes by including analysis of data that includes the voices of participants in the research.

5. Actionability

The extent to which the paper provides new ideas that guide action in response to need.

6. Reflexivity.

The extent to which self location as a change agent is acknowledged by the authors. By self location we mean that authors take a personal, involved and self-critical stance as reflected in clarity about their role in the action research process, clarity about the context in which the research takes place, and clarity about what led to their involvement in this research.

7. Significance

The extent to which the insights in the manuscript are significant in content and process. By significant we mean having meaning and relevance beyond their immediate context in support of the flourishing of persons, communities, and the wider ecology.