

## **Suggested outline for an article about Exploratory Action Research co-authored by mentor and teacher-researcher**

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If the article is co-authored, I suggest generally using 'we' but given name and third person to indicate separate actions. Alternatively, there could be a kind of dialogue going on throughout the article (i.e. different voices), but that might be difficult to maintain. I'm assuming the article will be mainly about the teachers' research but also partly about the mentoring which supported that research:

### **Background:**

- Self-introductions of teacher and mentor – where do they each teach?
- In what context did the mentoring take place (a particular programme – or how did mentor and teacher come together otherwise?). What was the motivation on both sides?
- During what time period did the mentoring and the research take place?
- What were the main stages of research and what was the issue investigated?
- How (often) did mentor and teacher interact during the process
- If the research was presented orally somewhere, how did this happen?
- How did the writing take place? What was the writing process?

[note: I do not think there's any need for literature review at this stage, unless it was genuinely part of the research process]

### **Initial stage / Planning exploration**

- Describe the particular class in relation to which the teacher-research (mentoring) took place
- Describe the issue the teacher was facing in this class, and how this was transformed into exploratory research questions
- What were the research questions?
- What research was planned to answer each research question (research instruments)?

[note: don't forget to mention role of the mentor – how did s/he help in this collaborative process?]

### **Findings from exploration**

- What was actually done to find answers to the research questions? Describe the research process
- How was the data analysed?
- What was found, in relation to the research questions? What were the answers?
- How did the teacher interpret these findings – in other words, what did s/he make of them? In what ways were they surprising / illuminating?

[note: don't forget to mention role of the mentor – how did s/he help in this collaborative process?]

*Either:*

**Conclusion** [if this was just an exploratory research study], with summary, reflections on the process / what was learned overall, what will be done from now etc. [see also 'Conclusion' below]

*Or* [if the research led to an action research phase]:

### **Plan of action**

- Describe the plan of action arising from exploration
- Describe how the success or otherwise of the action would be evaluated

**Findings from action research**

- Describe findings [as with 'Findings from exploration' above]

**Conclusion**

- Summarize the research
- Reflect on overall learning
- Reflect on mentoring overall – from different perspectives
- Consider implications for future exploration / action / research

**References**