What is Action Research?
According to the experts . . .

it is . . .
“a cycle
“a cycle of posing questions,
“a cycle of posing questions, gathering data,
“a cycle of posing questions, gathering data, reflection,
“a cycle of posing questions, gathering data, reflection, & deciding on a course of action.”

Kurt Lewin described it as a process of ... Planning

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Kurt Lewin described it as a process ofPlanning, Action, and Searching.

Learning Point Associates (http://www.learningpt.org/) define it as . . .
“Inquiry or research in the context of focused efforts to improve the quality of an organization and its performance.”
It is a cyclical process ...
You start out with a problem.
You design a potential solution.
You take action on your solution.
You reflect on the results.
You capture the learning.

Problem
Design
Action
Reflection
Capture
Then, you repeat the process.
Again and again ...

Problem
Design
Action
Reflection
Capture
First, you need a good problem
A Good Problem is ... important
A Good Problem is ... complex
A Good Problem is …

multi-functional
A Good Problem ... asks difficult questions
A Good Problem ... 

demands action
A Good Problem ...

resists structure
A Good Problem . . .
leads to
A Good Problem . . .
leads to
surprises
Action Research requires that we **REFRAME** the problem.
by looking at it in different contexts
from different perspectives
as a part of a larger system
by making comparisons
by applying the problem to different groups
As You Implement the Plan . . .

- Control the progress
As You Implement the Plan . . .

- Control the progress
- Collect the data (evidence)
As You Implement the Plan . . .

- Control the progress
- Collect the data (evidence)
- Present periodic reports
Another essential element of Action Research is . . .
“A cycle of action and reflection is the heart of action learning.”

Reflection is . . .

A process of entering into “dialogue based on the data collected and [being] guided by a systemic framework to discover the root causes of the organization's problems.”

What did we intend to do?

These questions are used by the U.S. Army for their After-Action Reviews. Garvin, 2000, p. 107.
What actually happened?
Why did this happen?
What are we going to do the next time?
Lastly, we need to capture the learning.
Information must be captured and then made institutional--
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Information must be captured and then made institutional—a process that involves recording and storing the learning in a way that is accessible to others.
In a nutshell . . .

Action Research seeks to accomplish two goals:
In a nutshell . . .

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1. Stimulate Learning and
In a nutshell . . .

Action Research seeks to accomplish two goals:

1. Stimulate Learning and
2. Make a Difference.
For more information contact me at . . .

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• Grate Dane and Chihuahua by unknown photographer (unknown to me)
  http://www.bloggyaward.com/pets/great-dane/
• Texture water: _MG_1662bi.jpg by somadjinn
  http://www.morguefile.com/archive/?display=170527
&
• Beautiful Spider Web
• Window photos are my own
• All other photos from Microsoft Clip art Office Online

Credits