

# INTRO TO THE SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

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2022 TA WINTER INSTITUTE



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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**By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:**

- Describe what SoTL is and the process of SoTL**
- Identify a question related to your own teaching experience**
- Develop a plan to help you conduct your own SoTL project**

# WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE REFLECTIVE TEACHER?

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- How you would describe a reflective teacher – write words/phrases onto the slide
- What do you do before/after teaching a class?

Thought-pro has many ways of teaching

looking into new research or conflicting perspectives on thier research.

When students struggle with a concept, thinks about how it can be better explained

Uses assements to monitor student learning, but also the effi... efficacy of teaching strategies

Thought-provoking, open questions

looking back on well-known topics for changes/developments

open about when they don't know

constanly reflecting

Ask for students their feedback and apply the constructive ones

flexible - willing to make solicits and considers feedback

reflect

looks to the theoretical lit

# FROM REFLECTIVE PRACTICE TO SOTL

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After teaching a class, we tend to ask ourselves:

- Why did this teaching strategy (group activity, discussion, lecture, etc.) work or not work?
- Why did it or did it not achieve the intended outcome?
- What information will I need to determine whether the strategy achieved the intended outcome?
- How can I implement different strategies to meet the intended outcome?

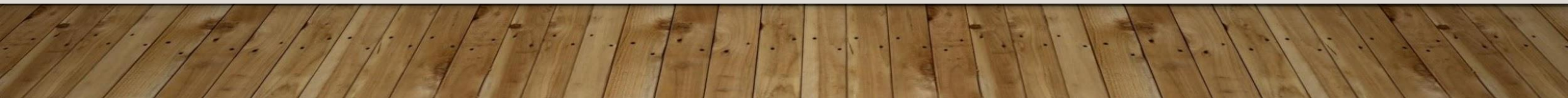
# FROM REFLECTIVE PRACTICE TO SOTL

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When thinking about what we do in the classroom and how it affects student learning we tend to:

- engage in asking ourselves questions
- form hunches
- possibly start looking at data on student achievement to see if our hunches have merit

This process of engaging our thinking about and for our teaching and learning is:

- reflective practice
  - or being a reflective practitioner
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# REFLECT ON YOUR OWN PRACTICE?

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- What challenges to student learning have you observed in your teaching?
- How did/could you help your students overcome this challenge?
- On your worksheet, write this challenge into box 1)



# WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH?

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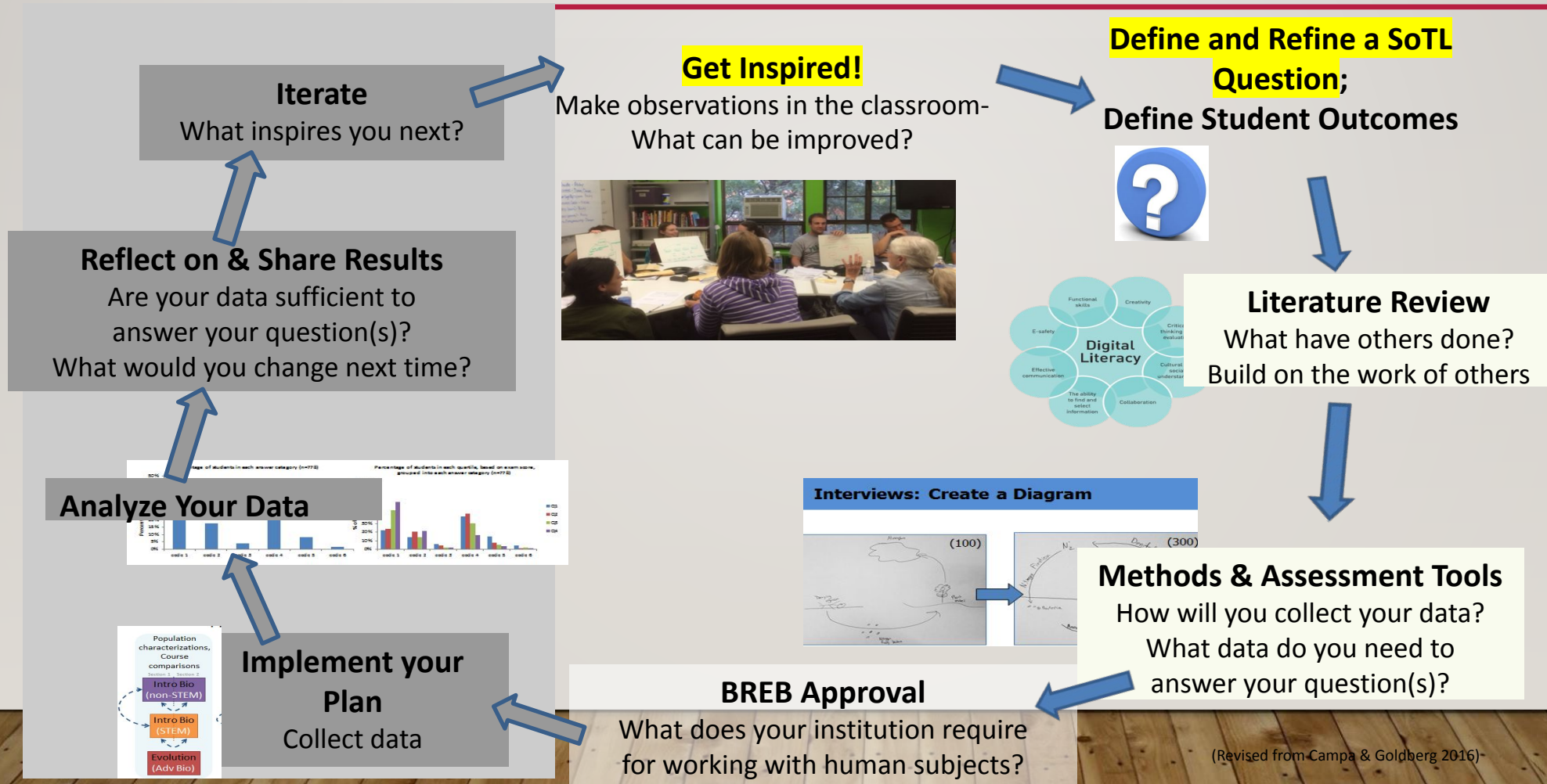
A cyclical process of steps that typically begins with identifying a research problem or issue of study. It then involves reviewing the literature, specifying a purpose for the study, collecting and analyzing data, and forming an interpretation of information. This process culminates in a report, disseminated to audiences, that is evaluated and used in the educational community.

(Creswell, 2002)

How does this definition relate to being a reflective teacher?



# FROM REFLECTIVE PRACTICE TO SOTL - THE SOTL INQUIRY CYCLE





# TYPES OF SOTL RESEARCH QUESTION

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## “What works” questions

Inquiry into the effectiveness of teaching practices and pedagogical approaches

## “What is” questions

Descriptive inquiry about students’ learning, students’ prior knowledge, characteristics of a pedagogical approach, a problem a teacher has encountered in a classroom, etc.

## “What could be” questions - Visions of the possible:

Inquiry focused on what might be

## Formulating new conceptual frameworks

Models and frameworks that lead to new inquiry questions

[https://youtu.be/JCxPttq\\_e\\_Y](https://youtu.be/JCxPttq_e_Y)

# WHAT TYPE OF SOTL RESEARCH QUESTION ARE YOU ASKING?

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What works?

*Does using interactive technology in an introduction to Engineering course improve student performance and retention?*

What is?

*Why don't C, D, and F students review their test paper and learn from their mistakes?*

*What is it that students do when they solve statistics problems?*

What could be? – vision of the possible

*Each semester the ability of a few students to solve problems improves dramatically during a semester-long course. Can I document the progression of such a student?*

*What happens if group projects on community issues are added to a quantitative literacy course?*



# WHAT TYPE OF SOTL RESEARCH QUESTION ARE YOU ASKING?

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Individually:

Revisit your identified challenge to student learning

- What type of SoTL research question could help you answer this question?
- Write your SoTL research question

With a partner:

- Share your research question
- Is it clear, measurable, feasible? Make suggestions



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Natalie (she/her)  
Alec Christensen  
Shiva Zargar  
Tony Yang (he/him)

# SOURCES FOR COLLECTING DATA

## What type of data could you collect in a classroom?

### Student participation

attendance (if relevant)

qualitative and quanti

grade

student surveys

Ask students what they are finding unclear or difficult

survey

# WHAT DATA WILL YOU COLLECT TO ANSWER YOUR SOTL RESEARCH QUESTION?

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Individually:

- What type of data (quantitative vs qualitative) can help you answer your research question?
- What will you use as data to answer your research question?

With a different partner:

- Share your research question and insights
- Give suggestions



# WHAT'S NEXT?

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**Interested in continuing working on this or other questions? The Teaching as Research (TAR) program will be starting their pre-TAR workshops at the end of March. Find more information at:**

**<https://cirtl.ubc.ca/get-involved/cirtl-practitioner/tar-internship/>**