Chapter 1
Introduction to the Process of Research
Key Ideas

• Reasons research is important
• Problems with research today
• Research defined
• The Research Process
• Ethical Considerations in Research
• Skills needed for research
What is Research?

• The researcher asks a question
• The researcher collects data
• The researcher indicates how the data answered the question
Importance of Research

• Reason 1: Research Adds Knowledge About Educational Issues
  – Addresses gaps in knowledge
  – Expands knowledge
  – Adds voices of individuals to knowledge
Importance of Research

- Reason 2: Research Helps Improve Practice
  - Educators gain new ideas
  - Educators gain new insight into methods
  - Educators gain new insight into students
Lines of Research

What do you Want to do?

Research Lines

What does the Research Say?

What lines of Research help You?

Educational Research 2e: Creswell
Importance of Research

• Reason 3: Research Informs Policy Debates
  – Research helps people weigh different perspectives on issues
  – Research helps people make informed decisions regarding policy
Importance of Research

- Reason 4: Research Builds Student Research Skills
  - Organizational skills
  - Analytical skills
  - Writing skills
  - Presentation skills
Problems With Research Today

- Contradictory or vague findings
- Questionable data
- Unclear statement about the intent of the study
- Lack of full disclosure of the data collection procedure
- Inarticulate rendering of the research problem
The Research Spiral

- Identify the Research Problem
- Specify a Research Purpose
- Collect Data
- Analyze and Interpret Data
- Evaluate Data and Write Report
- Review the Literature
Research Spiral: Identify the Research Problem

- Specify a problem
- Justify a problem
- Suggest a need to study it for audiences
Research Spiral: Reviewing the Literature

• Locate the Resources
  – Books
  – Journals
  – Electronic Resources

• Select Resources
  – Determine the relevant resources for the topic
  – Organize the resources by developing a “Literature Map”

• Summarize the resources in a Literature Review
Research Spiral: Specify a Purpose for the Research

• Identify the purpose statement
• Narrow the purpose statement to research
  – Quantitative: Research Questions and or hypothesis
  – Qualitative: Central Phenomenon and sub-questions
Research Spiral: Collecting Data

- Determine the data collection method
- Select the individuals to study
- Design data collection instruments and outline procedures
- Obtain permissions
- Gather information
Research Spiral: Analyzing and Interpreting Data

• Breaking down the data
• Representing the data
• Explaining the data
Research Spiral: Reporting and Evaluating Research

- Determine the audience for the report
- Structure the report
- Write the report sensitively and accurately
Ethical Considerations in Research

• Respect the rights of the participants
• Honor the requests and restrictions of the research site
• Report the research fully and honestly
Skills Needed for Research

- Curiosity to solve puzzles
- Lengthen your attention span
- Using the library and computer resources
- Writing and editing