

Approaches to Inquiry in Music Education

- I. Approaches to Inquiry – Ways of systematically exploring a question.
 - A. Philosophical – What ought to be
 1. Analysis
 2. Criticism
 3. Speculation
 - B. Historical – What was
 1. Documentary
 2. Artifacts
 - C. Empirical – What is
Direct observations resulting in new data. The observations can be quantified somehow so that they may be analyzed statistically, or presented in an in-depth narrative style.
 1. Descriptive – Makes no connections between variables. Inferences drawn only after replication.
 - a) Qualitative - questionnaire, interview, observation - ethnography/case study
 - b) Quantitative - questionnaire, interview, observation.
 2. Causal-Comparative – Compares two groups with pre-existing differences.
 - a) Can be qualitative or quantitative
 3. Correlational – compares two or more characteristics of a group to see if they are related in a linear way.
 4. Experimental - Can changing or introducing one variable cause a change in otherwise equal settings.
- II. How to approach your own research - Work in a known area
 - A. Read a great deal of research literature
 - B. Interact with peers and colleagues
 - C. Select a topic that you care about
 - D. Find a model- Something that will provide a framework
 - E. Set realistic goals
 - F. Cultivate the ability to disagree – “on the other hand”