

Welcome back

How can you get to know what you don't know?





Reflexivity as a Research Method

- It is a **critical appraisal** of your experience
- You need to **doubt** what you hold to be 'true'
- It is in the **service** of the research



An example of reflexivity and its use in the service of the research.

It comes from **Linda Finley**, an author and researcher who has written books and articles about reflexivity.





On one occasion, I was observing an occupational therapist working with a patient who was in the final stages of lung cancer.

Although I was supposed only to observe, I found that I could not stop myself becoming involved (by asking the patient questions and even intervening at a practical level).

When I reflected on my behaviour, I understood that it was due to my active need to be involved, to do something.

I also recognised my own sensitivity as an asthmatic, witnessing someone with breathing problems dying of a lung disease.

Once I recognised this, I could then see that the occupational therapist was experiencing similar identifications with some of her other patients, Previously I had interpreted the therapist as being involved with fairly superficial, irrelevant tasks.

Now I could see that these tasks had a meaning for her - they were as much for her as for patient.

By examining my own responses, I could understand hers better.





1) The Event

2) The reflection

3) The self analysis

4) Reflexivity – the application of these new insights into the research encounter

5) In the service of the research – a review of past encounters



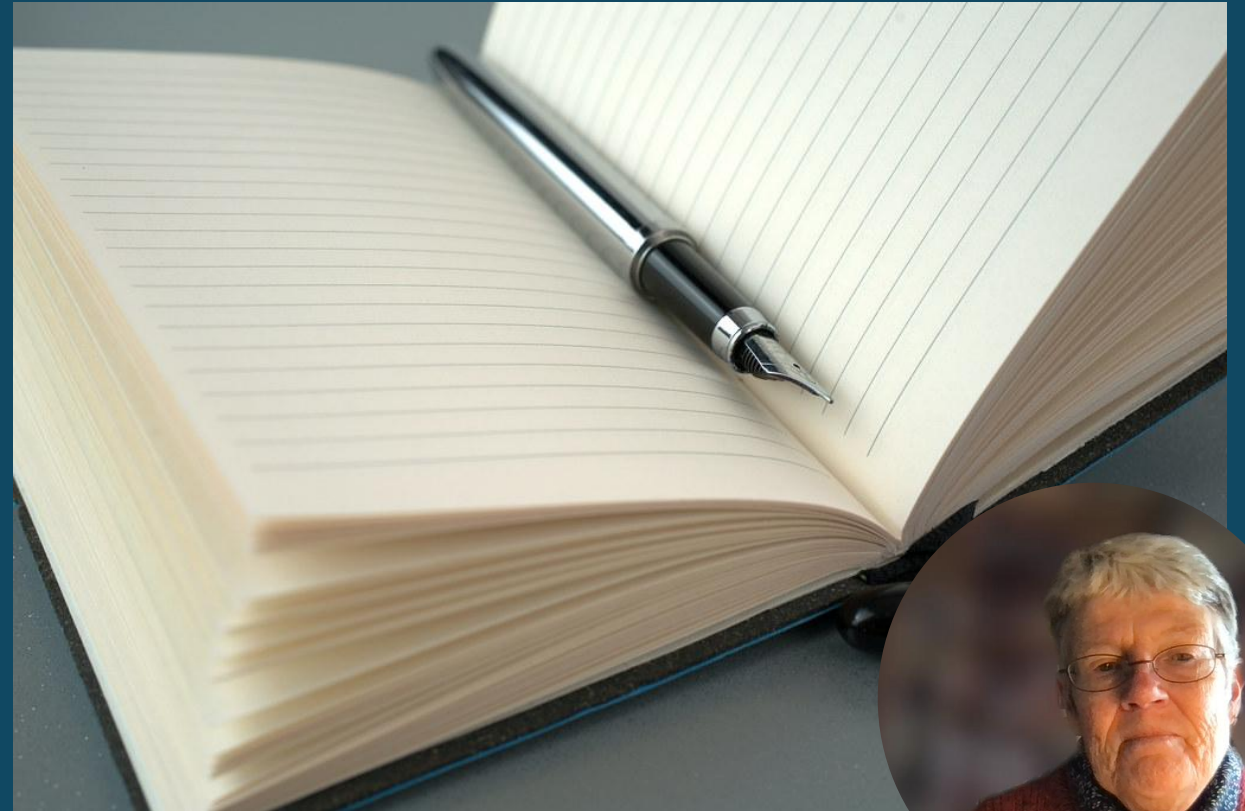
Class Exercise 2



- What is your question ?
- Why do YOU want to do it?
- How will you gather your data?
- How will you 'measure' its truthfulness?
- Who is it for?
- What SYMBOL (i.e. image/song title/poem) could you use to draw the participants and readers into the topic?



Discuss with each other, and keep it somewhere, written down, because it will grow and change.



Interesting reading around Reflexivity in Research

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