

Investigating Problems of Practice

Action Research for Continuous Improvement
in Digital Learning Environments

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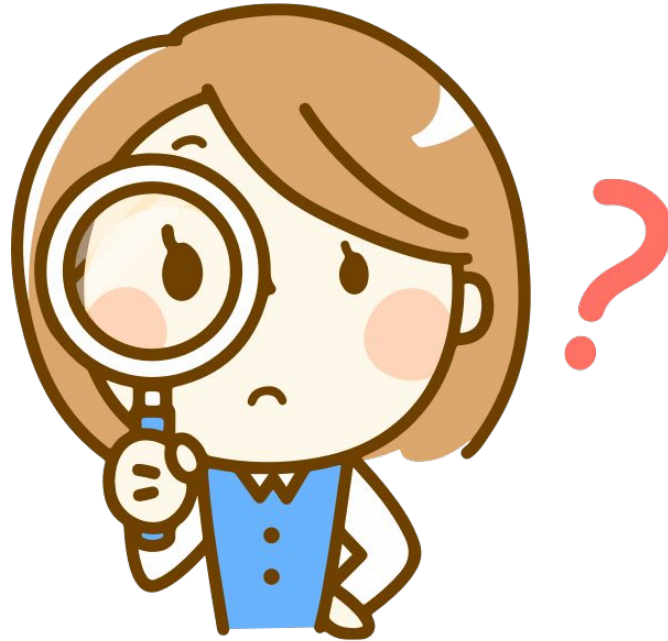
TODAY GOT ME LIKE...



BE CURIOUS.

TAKE
OWNERSHIP.

What is Action Research?



PRIMARY RESEARCH

Primary research is a type of academic research that involves collecting new and original data to conduct a study.

PRIMARY VS SECONDARY

Primary Research

Primary research involves collecting data directly from the source, such as through surveys or experiments.

Secondary Research

Secondary research involves using, compiling, and critiquing data from published studies to generate new insights.

EXAMPLES

- 1 Interviews
- 2 Questionnaires
- 3 Clinical trials
- 4 Action research
- 5 Focus groups
- 6 Observation studies



Dean Shareski ✓

@shareski

I think 2 things are true: Teachers are overwhelmed and tired and teachers still need and want to learn. To that end, how do we design professional learning that equally honors both of those truths?



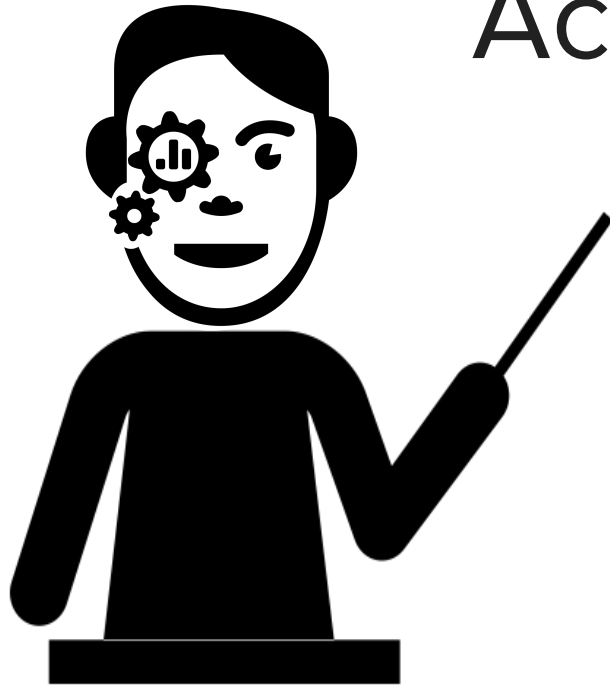
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6
Themes

1. Job-embedded
2. Solution-oriented
3. Teacher-led
4. Personalized/differentiated
5. Paid time or paid for
6. Considerate of educators' emotional & mental health



Action Research as PD

R. Winkelman



<https://bit.ly/3wqnGXg>

ACTION Research

TRADITIONAL Research

PURPOSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Solve immediate problems● Improve existing processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Draw conclusions from data● Advance existing knowledge● Provide generalizable and reliable findings
CONTEXT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reactive, derived from surroundings● Usually not theoretical in nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Focused on crafting strong hypothesis and seeking causal relationships between variables● Derived from theory
SIGNIFICANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Practical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Statistical



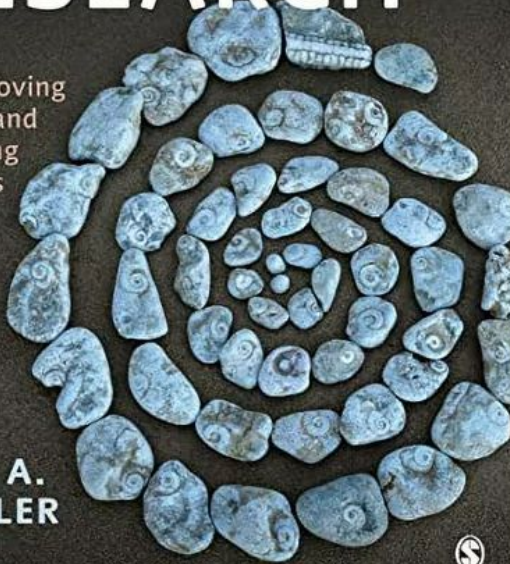
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ACTION RESEARCH

Improving
Schools and
Empowering
Educators

SIXTH
EDITION

CRAIG A.
MERTLER



bitly

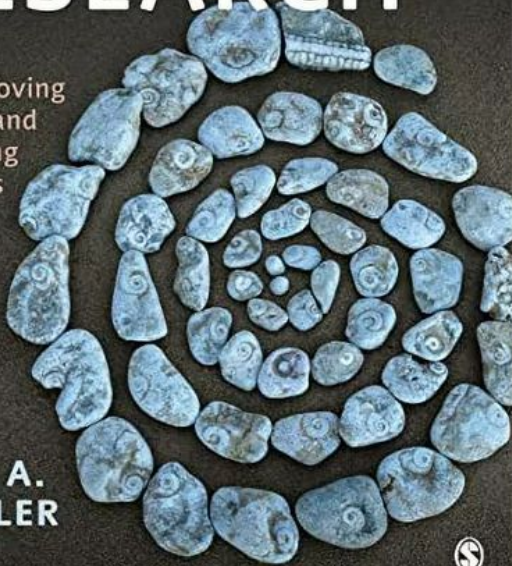
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ACTION RESEARCH

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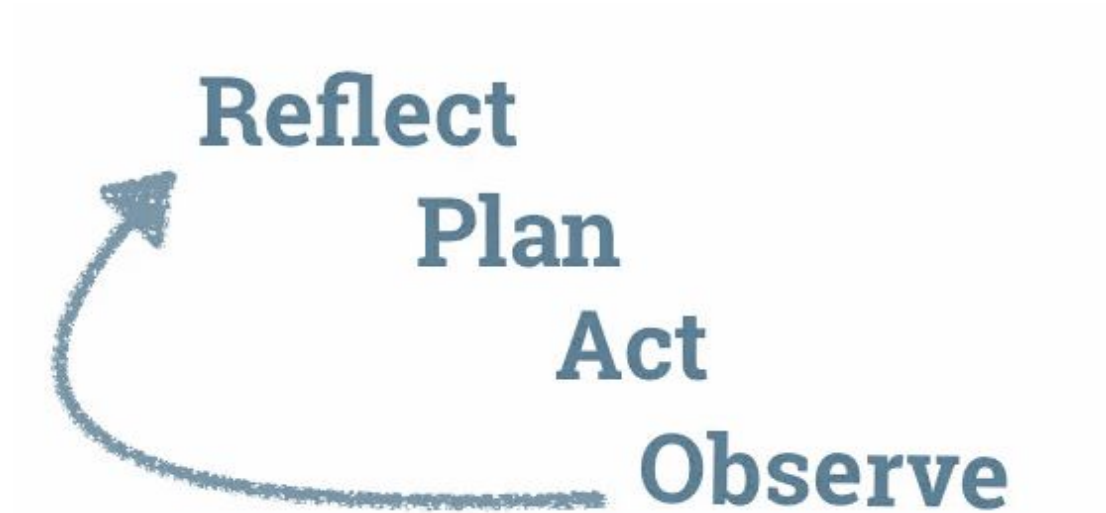
SIXTH
EDITION

CRAIG A.
MERTLER



Practitioners
"Problems of Practice"
Cyclical
Reflection

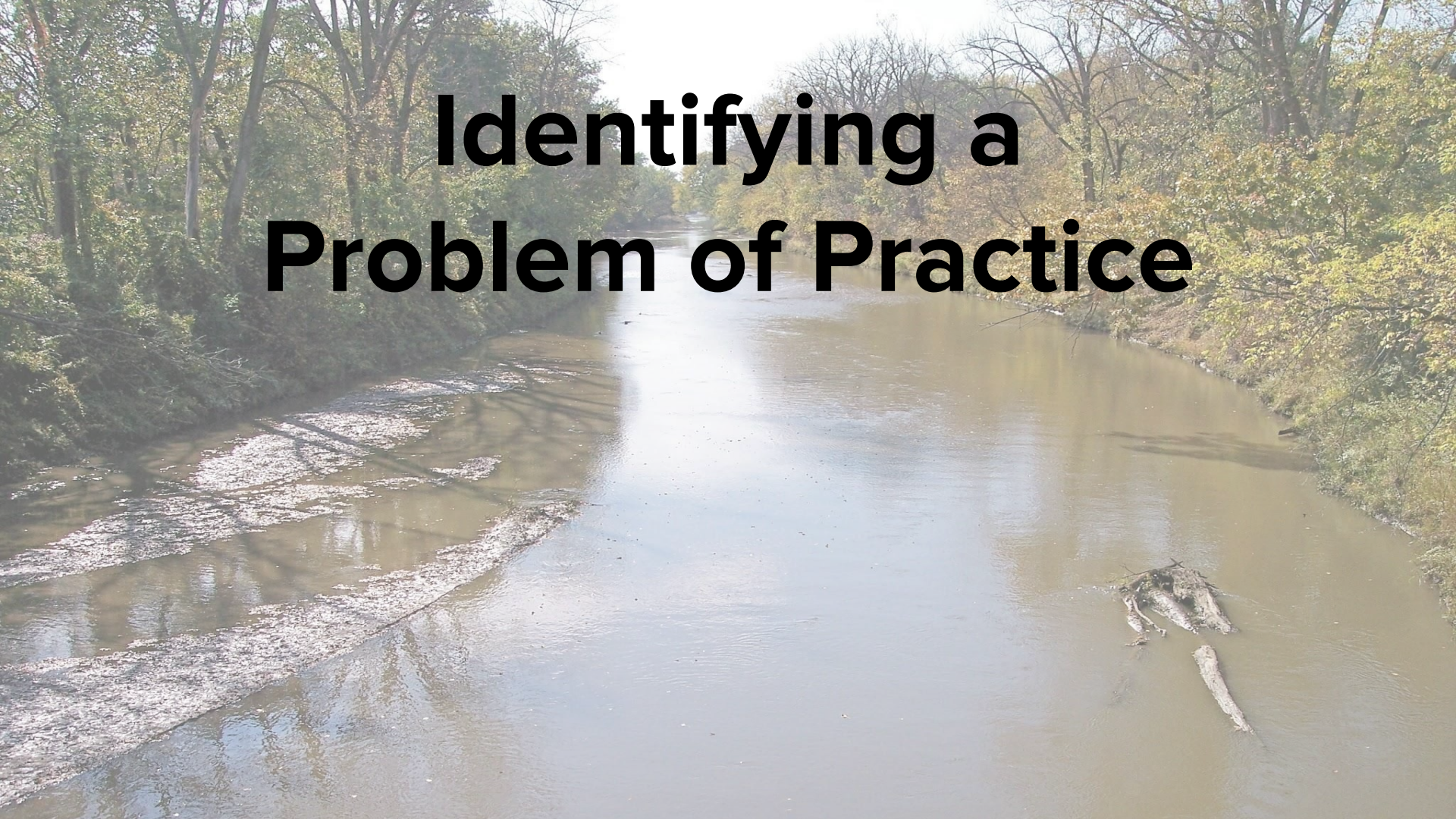
What are the Stages of Action Research?



What Does Action Research Look Like in a Digital Learning Environment?



Identifying a Problem of Practice



Upstream by, Dan Heath



Barriers to Upstream Thinking

Problem Blindness.

Tunneling.

Lack of Ownership.



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1. Job-embedded
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Themes

An Educator's Guide to Putting Out Fires: Solving Problems in Education

When: Apr 4, 2023 from 10:00 to 10:30 (PT)

Associated with [The Commons](#)

This interactive webinar will use design thinking practices to help participants solve problems using the Putting Out Fires framework. The framework is a critical new step in design thinking that focuses on which solutions yield the best results. Participants will identify a problem, focus on the people involved and analyze all possible solutions by implementing the framework.

Presented by Kaylah Holland, Ed.D., Director of Instructional Technology & Blended Learning; ISTE 20 to Watch Award Winner; ISTE Community Leader.



Putting Out Fires Framework



Prevent

The problem has been eliminated but the solution involves time, resources, and people.



Contain

The problem has been confined to a small space where it can be further studied and cause minimal impact.



Detect

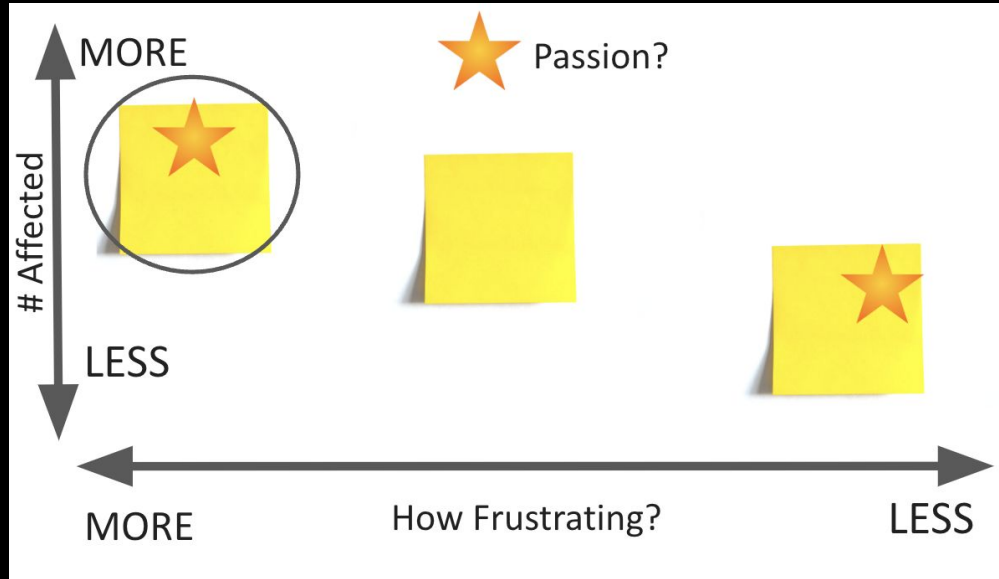
The problem has been analyzed & assessed but the solution is not a long-term remedy.



Extinguish

The problem is quickly assessed & addressed but might come back soon

Action Research Stage 1: REFLECT.



Identify a Problem



bit.ly/ISTEputtingoutfirestemplate

MORE

LESS

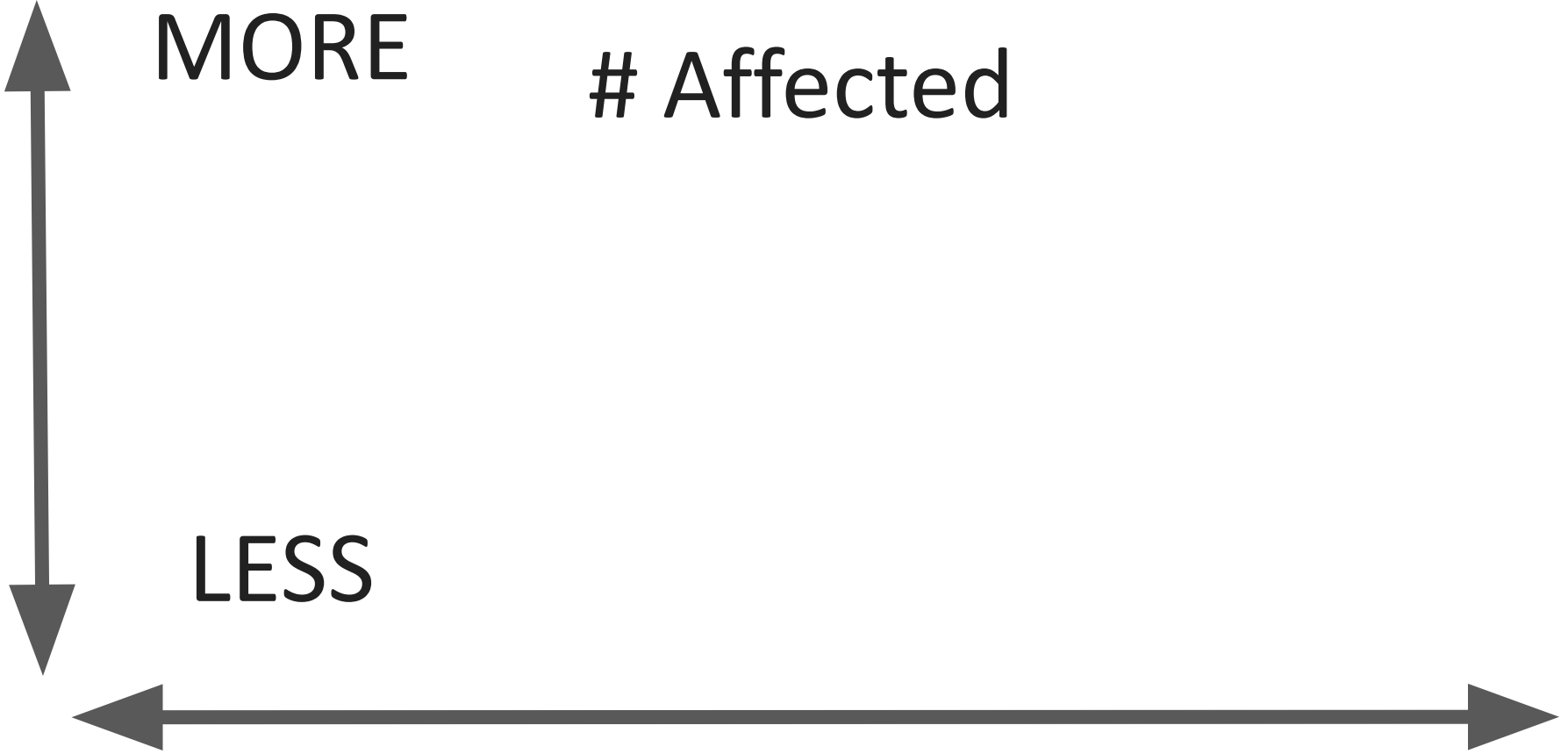


FRUSTRATING

MORE

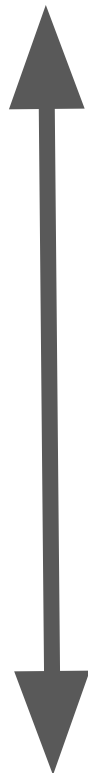
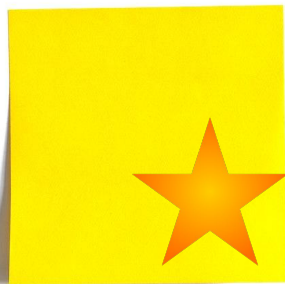
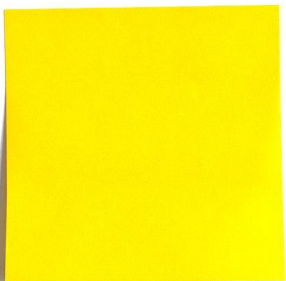
Affected

LESS

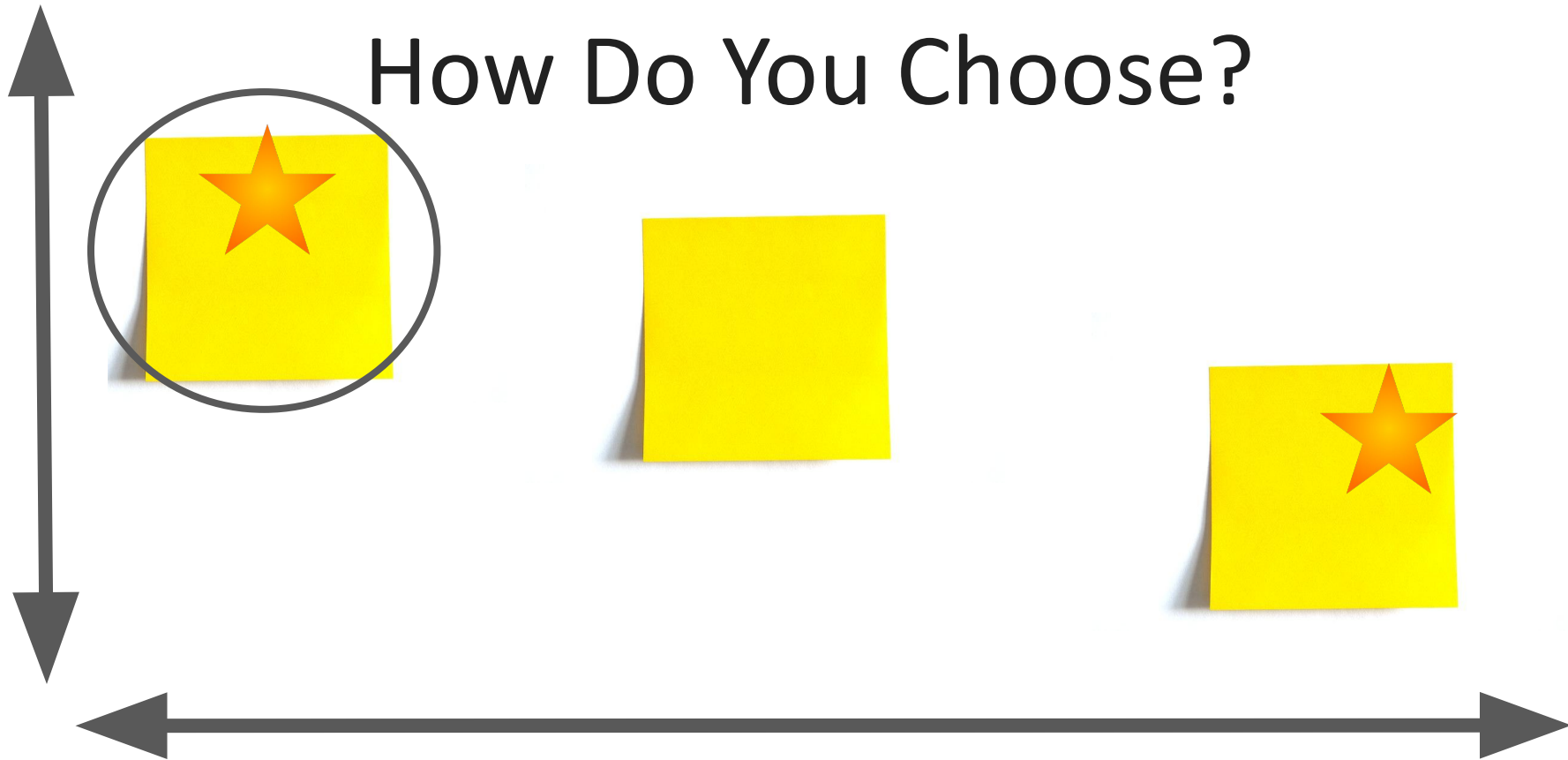




Passion



How Do You Choose?



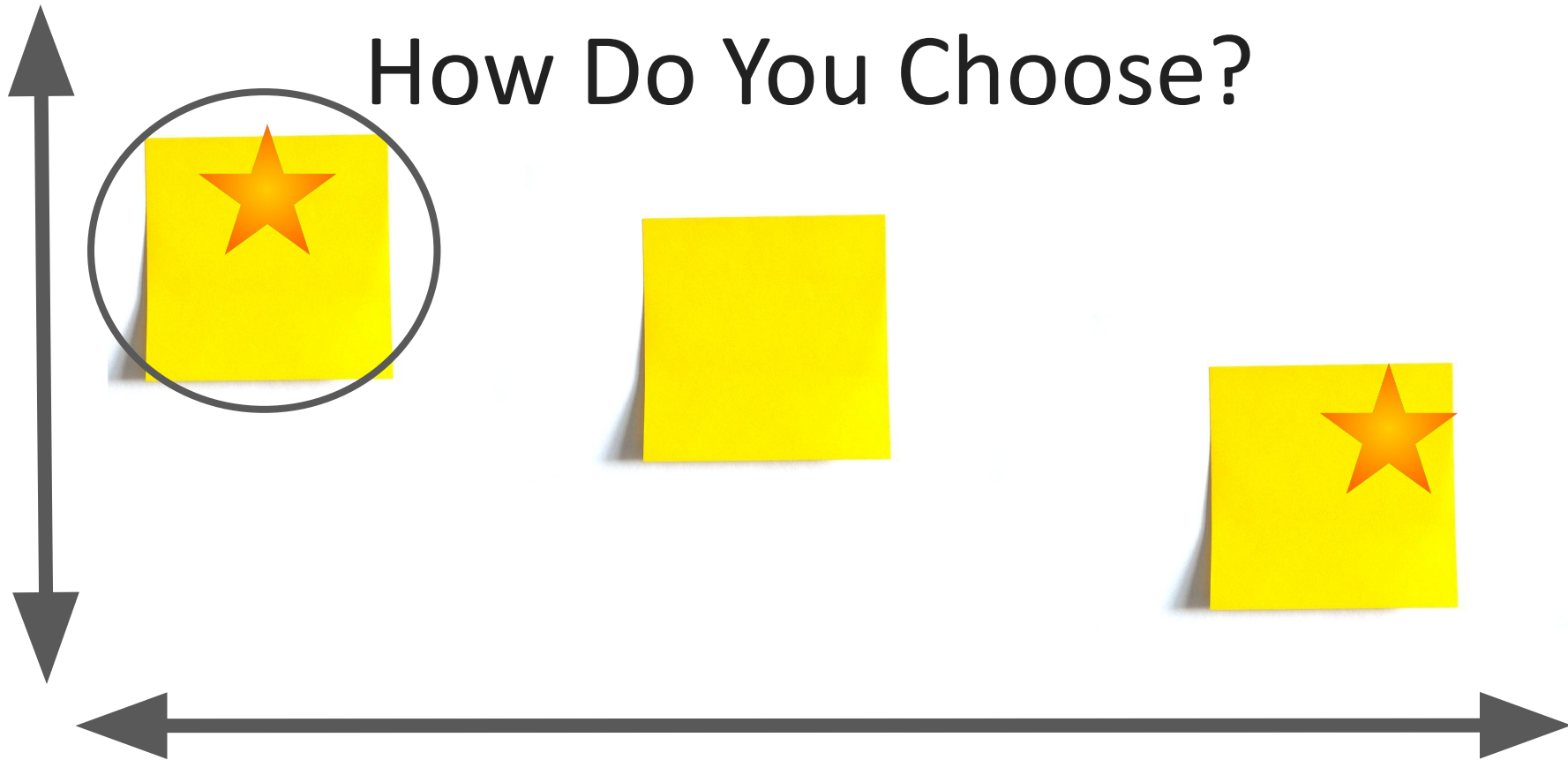
Example - Administrator



Example - Teacher



How Do You Choose?



Action Research Stage 2:

PLAN.

Putting Out Fires Framework



Prevent

Open a public & free mental health system that supports only schools.



Contain

Hire more counselors.

Purchase online counseling app subscriptions for staff & students.



Detect

Train the teachers to supplement the counseling needs of students.

Screen students every two months for mental health concerns.



Extinguish

Students cause a safety concern at school

Limit a counselor's responsibilities to just counseling.



Solutions

Putting Out Fires Framework

Kaylah Holland



Prevent



Contain



Detect



Extinguish

Solutions - Administrator

Putting Out Fires Framework



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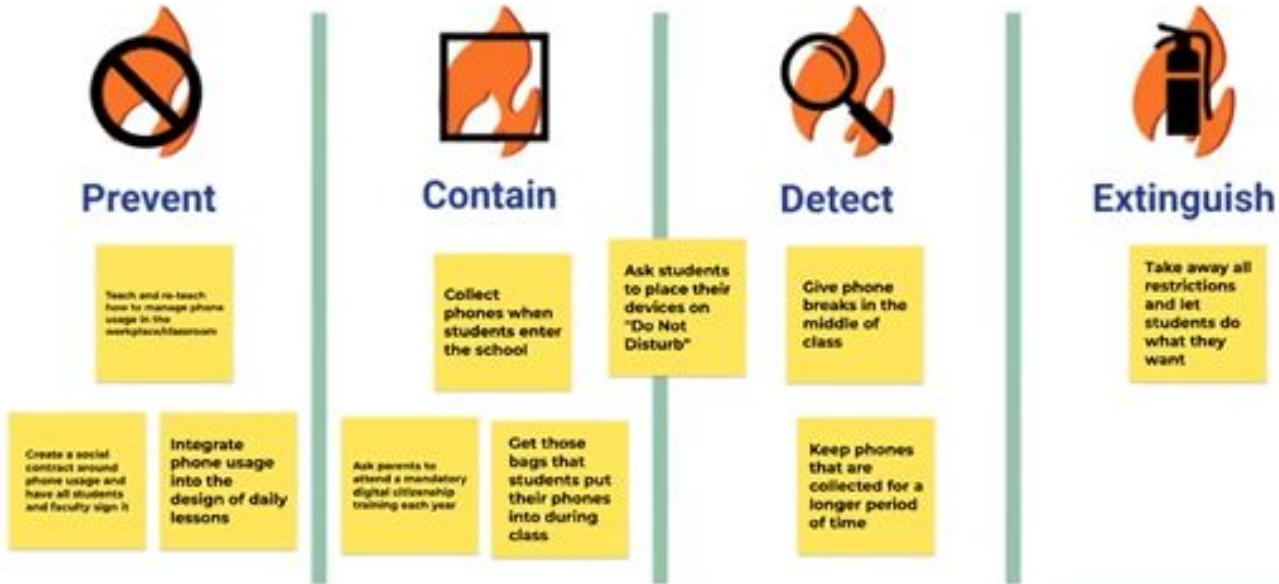
Extinguish

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Solutions- Teacher

Putting Out Fires Framework



Solutions

Putting Out Fires Framework

Kaylah Holland



Prevent



Contain



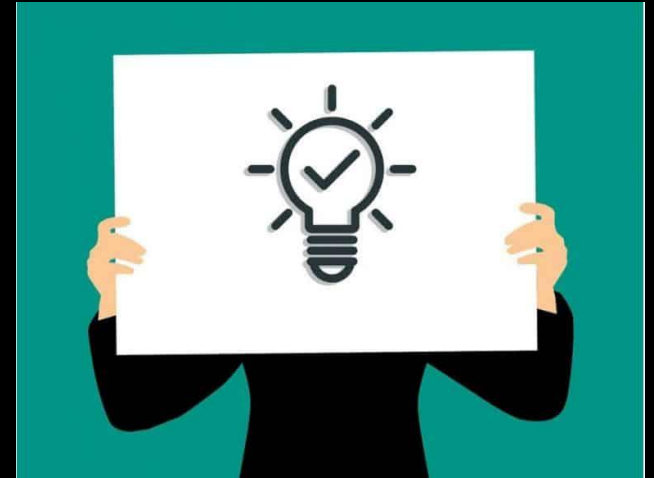
Detect



Extinguish

Action Research Stage 3:

ACT.



Action Research Stage 4:

OBSERVE.



Action Research Stage 5:

SHARE.



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QUESTIONS?

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