TESOL Research: What? Why? How?

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Schedule

1100-1230:   Anne Burns

1230-1315:   Lunch

1315-1515:   David Olsher and Michael Legutke

1515-1530:   Break

1530-1630:   Discussion and Round-up

Research Scenarios
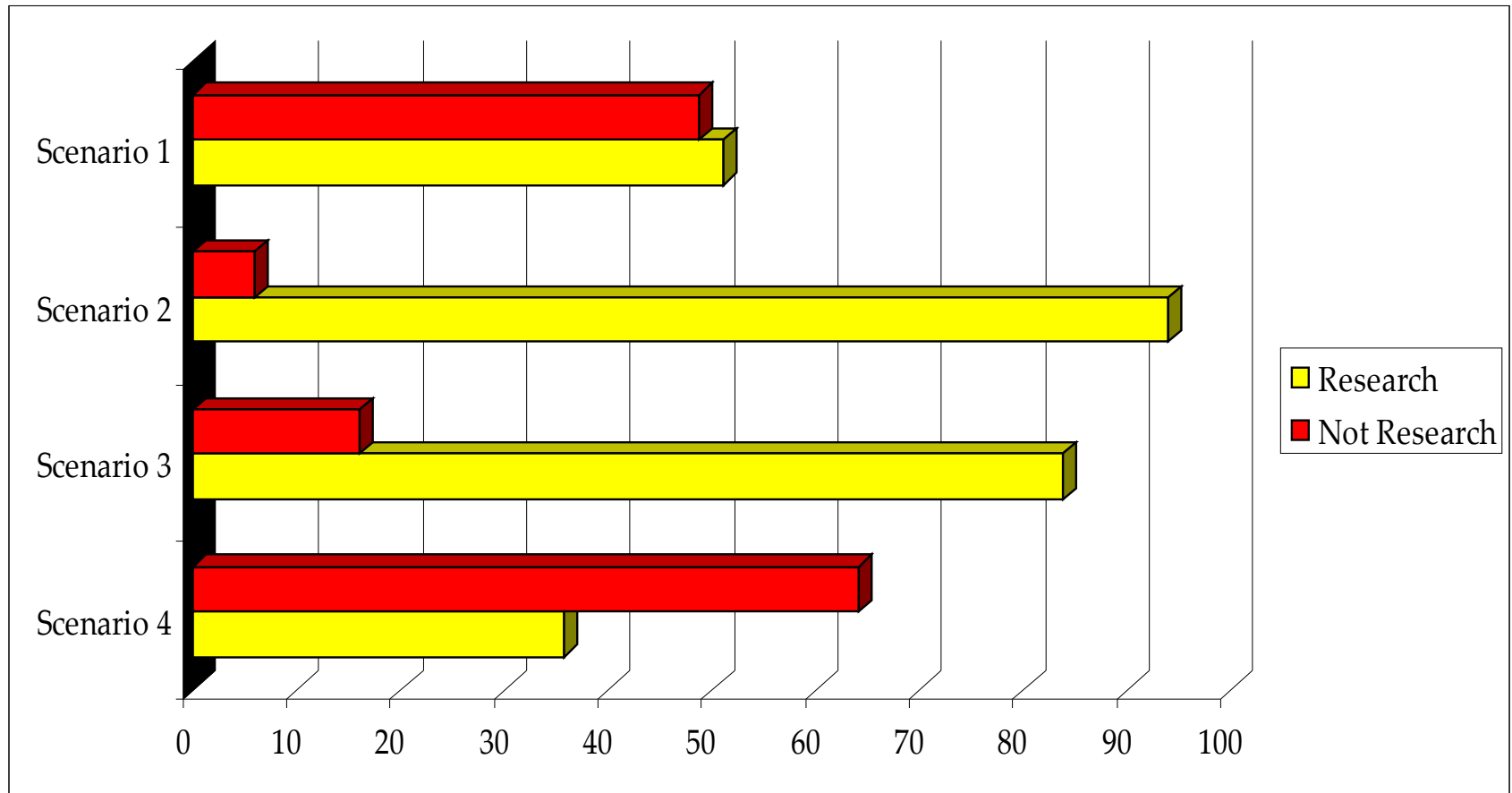
Characteristics of Research

- Investigative

- Empirical

- Analytic

- Systematic

- Public

Why Do Research?

- to find better ways of teaching.

- because it is good for my professional development.

- to solve problems in my professional work.

Varieties of Research

- **Classroom research** – conducted in classrooms (where?)

- **Teacher research** – conducted by teachers (by whom?) to explore some aspect of their own context (why?)

- **Action research** – using a particular methodology (how?)

The Research Process
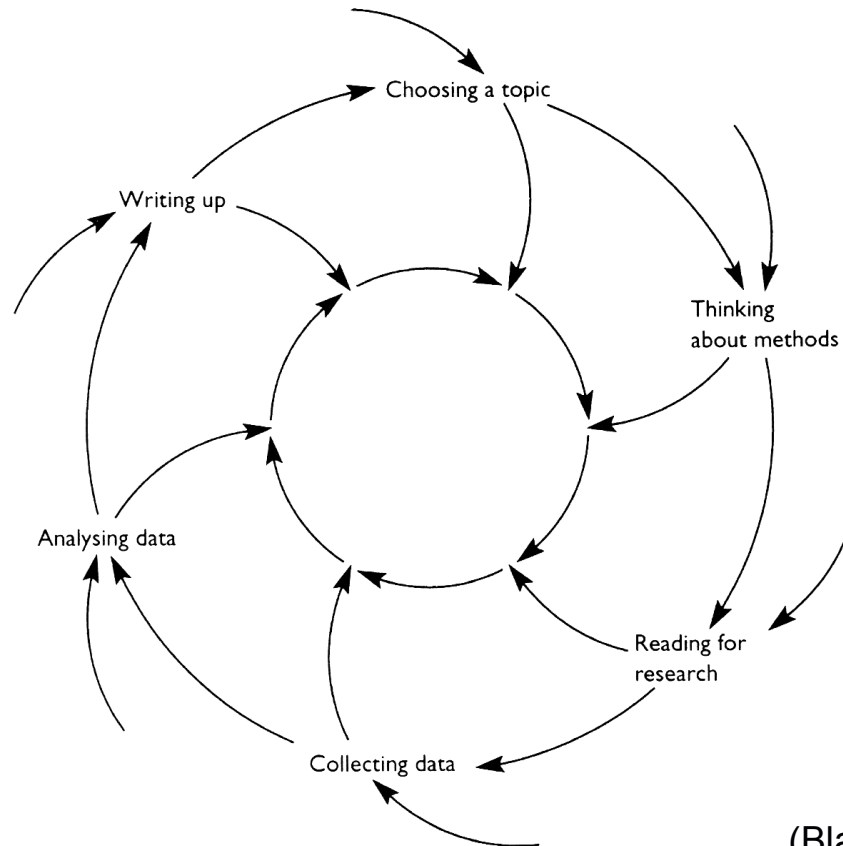
(Blaxter, Hughes, & Tight, 2001: 10)

Identifying a Research Topic

What topic(s) are you interested in researching?

Research Questions

- Clear

- Specific

- Answerable

- Substantively relevant

- Interconnected

(Punch, 1998)

Research Questions

Now review the questions you drafted in the light of the criteria we have discussed.

Key Questions

- Who will participate in your study?

- How will you collect data?

- How will you analyze data?

- How will you communicate your findings?

- What ethical principles will guide your research?

- How will you enhance quality?

Quantitative & Qualitative Research
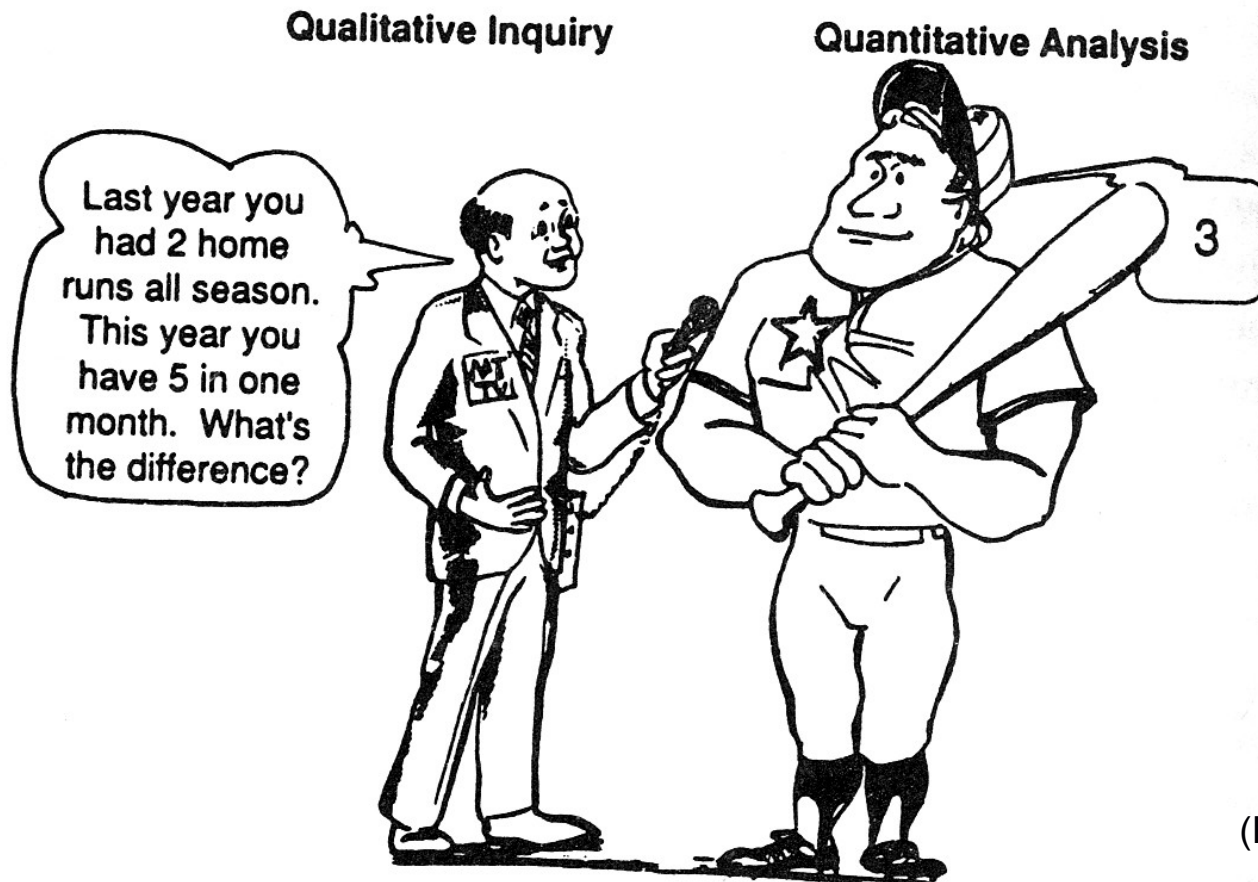
(Patton, 2001)

Quality Criteria

- Appropriate research methods

- Technical competence

- Link to existing work

- Useful

- Ethical

- Clear

- Coherent

Round-Up

- Question & Answer

- Review

- Raffle

- Evaluation