

Scholarly ISSUES

- A case study issue is oriented to the case more than to the population.
- The issue statement often reveals knowledge already known about the particular case.
- It suggests a problem or potential tension.
- It reflects a weighty matter, perhaps drawn from past experience or research literatures.
- It may invite attention to the contexts of this particular case.
- It may have a causal implication but it need not.

Although we study issues in case study to bring about a better understanding of the particular case, we select our issues partly because they would be issues for many other cases as well. We have recognized these problems in previous experience or research writings. We work really hard to examine an issue closely partly to win the support of readers who are skeptical of our methods.

Examples of scholarly issue questions

1. (Harper School) Is this school's meaning of school reform emphasizing student maturation whereas the district's meaning is more academic?
2. (CSSE Science) Do the new teachers in this school depart from the ideological values of their professors to take up the ideological values of their fellow teachers?
3. (Getty DBAE Art) Does the intellectual approach of the DBAE teachers here confound expectations that studio art expression is the most important course outcome?
4. (VBA training evaluation) Should the orientation of training here be less a matter of overcoming problems and introducing new techniques give way to a continuing education approach?
5. (Music teacher education) Does the demand for graduates who can lead a band and teach children to play instruments make the music education training too narrow?
6. (College leadership) Are their retreats being used more to gain loyalty and compliance to the central office than to develop a community of practice?
7. (Staff development) Does it make sense to have these schools send their teachers to child-oriented pedagogy workshops when the state is pressing hard for a set curriculum and high stakes testing?
8. (Teaching quality) What participation in the Writers Workshop is paying off in teaching that gets high student ratings?