

A Taste of Research:
Reflections on a summer Vacation
Research Assistantship

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Theoretical Standpoint

Teaching
Research
Nexus

- Research-led
- Research-orientated
- Research-based

Learning
Communities

- Gain identity
- Share goals and knowledge
- Develop strong working relationships

(Healey, 2005; Robertson et al., 2012)

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**The Purpose of Research in Student
Learning**

Research is vital in higher education and
student's engage in research either through
participation or actually conducting research
(Healey & Jenkins, 2009)

Fundamental requirement for Psychology
degrees according to the British Psychological
Society [BPS]

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"VRA"

- A 'taste' of what research entails
- Experiential approach to learning
- Student and educator as **partners** in the
research process
- Vehicle to promote student development and
researcher identity

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What do student's say?

- Students become less passive and more active in research under supervision (Roberts, Ertubey, McMurray & Robertson, 2012)
- Facilitates self reflection (Landrum & Nelsen, 2002)
- Enhances confidence, communication skills, time management (Lei & Chuang, 2009), motivation and work ethic (Boyd et al., 2010), ethical boundaries in research

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Educator Perspectives

- Student-lecturer interactions were beneficial
- Educator supervisory & mentoring skills were enhanced
- Leadership skills developed

(Lei & Chuang, 2009)

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- Facilitates critical thinking and analytical skills (Hughes, Brown & Calvert, 2008; Landrum & Nelsen, 2002; Partridge & Sandover, 2010)
- Increases preparation for further study (Lei & Chuang, 2009) and gives students excellent foundations and experience to enhance career prospects (Hughes et al., 2008)
- Enhances the link between theory and practice (Salsman, Dulaney, Chinta, Zascavage & Joshi, 2013)

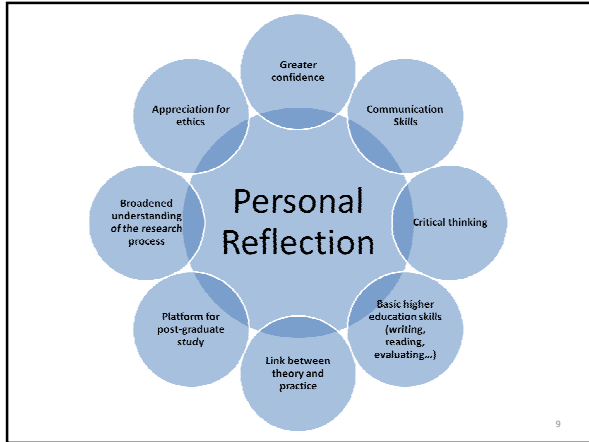
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Negatives?

- Additional commitments (educational, familial, work)
- Poor pay
- Lack of interest in the research topic
- Student's lack of experience
- Time spent 'training' student's
- Insufficient funding

(Lei & Chuang, 2009)

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Reflections on a busy summer...

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