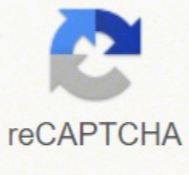




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## Implications and Benefits of a Long-Term Peer Debriefing Experience on Teacher Researchers

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### Abstract

Peer debriefing ensures the trustworthiness of a qualitative research study. Through peer debriefing, the researcher explores the research design, data collection process, and data analysis while colleagues, serving as critical friends, encourage the researcher to examine the research process from multiple perspectives. This paper examines experiences in a peer debriefing group formed by five female teacher researchers as a part of their graduate requirements for doctoral work, and their continued association as they pursued their professional goals. Three themes emerged based on the analysis of team meeting minutes, reflective journal logs, and case reports constructed reflectively by the five participants. These were: (a) essential elements of a successful peer debriefing group are commitment, continuity, and individual expectations being met; (b) participation can serve as an important development step in preparation as a professional researcher and educator; and (c) academic and emotional support provided by a peer debriefing group is a motivating factor leading to researcher's perceptions of success. These themes highlight the benefits of including peer debriefing as a part of the action research process of teacher researchers as a means of dealing with the 'messiness' that novice teachers researchers encounter when conducting action or self-study research.

**Key Words:** Peer debriefing, critical friend, teacher researcher, teacher research methods, qualitative research methods

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## History of management science

- Until 1900: no business in education
- Late 19th century: management science in the US (based on "positivism")

- ➡ science logics
- ➡ abstract theorising

example: Taylorism



agency can better anticipate the consequences of using a particular QAO on the management of a highway project.

### 6.2 Challenges to Implementation

The research team believes that the guidance in this research will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of overall project delivery and the end product. Continued advancement will take a willingness of STAs to implement alternative QMS and measure their effectiveness. It has taken decades to establish the baseline QMS. It will take highly motivated individuals and champions of change before the industry can truly realize the impacts of these advances.

The challenges of implementing alternative QMS processes are similar any process changes in large public or private organizations. State highway agencies must consider several challenges when deploying this research. Challenging the status quo and creating a cultural change requires leadership and mentoring to ensure that alternative QMS are thoughtfully applied. The dedication of sufficient time to changing agency attitudes toward incorporating alternative QAOs and incremental changes to the baseline systems will be required. It will be necessary to assign champions within the organization to implement the models, methods and tools in this guidebook. These champions will need to educate their peers and serve as resources for implementation.

### 6.3 Limitations of the Research

Due to the nature of the research questions and the limited use of alternative QMS in the United States, this research was based on largely qualitative research methods. The survey conducted in this research did not, for the most part, yield statistically significant results. Rather, the survey led the team to a sample of diverse case studies from which to draw conclusions. While the case studies were rigorously conducted and validated, the results are limited by the case study sample size. As a result, the fundamental QAOs identified by the research are based on QAOs that currently exist in the industry. It is possible that additional QAOs not identified in this research may develop in the future as the industry becomes more comfortable with alternative project delivery methods and more comfortable with the contractor taking on more responsibility for quality. The development of additional fundamental QAOs implies that the industry is embracing not only alternative project delivery, project management and quality methods, but also developing relationships with contractors that are built on trust, the contractor's expertise, and a willingness to shift more quality responsibility to the contractor.

While there is historical data pertaining to material specifications and material quality in every SHA, there is a lack of data and consistent measures of quality assurance organizations within the industry. It can be speculated that the reason for this is the industry focus on "how to implement alternative quality systems" at this point, rather than evaluating the effectiveness of quality assurance organizations. The development of measures to assess the performance of QAOs is a topic for future research.

The complexity of the topic was evident by a variety of conditions within the industry. This complexity created barriers for the research. For example, there is widespread inconsistent use



