

DOING RESEARCH DIFFERENTLY: BRINGING ART AND SCIENCE TOGETHER

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Abstract: *Historically and traditionally, art and science have been considered two separate methods of inquiry, with science taking precedence over the arts. In this article, I offer a critically reflective look at my PhD study and posit that the use of drama is a “valid” method by which a researcher can gain easier access to the participants. A script was developed which captured the concerns about the behaviour of high school students in Barbados and presented to seven student focus groups. This resulted in students who were more comfortable about sharing their perspectives and producing an “authentic” student voice. In this autoethnographic approach, I discovered that drama can be used as a method for breaking the ice when utilizing focus groups to collect data from students. In fact, the drama became an integral part of the research process. This has implications for the traditional way in which research is perceived and conducted.*

Keywords: *drama, art, science, research process, authentic student voice, focus groups*

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