

	<b>Ontology</b> (What is reality?)	<b>Epistemology</b> (What and when is knowledge?)	<b>Methodology</b> (By what manner do we acquire knowledge and truth? How do we know?)	<b>Values</b> (What contributions do our aesthetic sensibilities and our beliefs about what is worthy make towards our knowledge of what is true?)
<b>Critical Perspective</b>	Reality is constructed; driven by power and power relations.	Knowledge is constructed; theory should be practical, self-reflexive, explanatory, and normative.	The inquirer attempts to uncover the dynamics of ideology and power.	Inquiry employs social and cultural criticism. The goal is to reveal and challenge oppression.
<b>Interpretivism</b>	Reality is mediated by language; because the world does not exist in the shape of our sentences, the mind plays an active role in the construction of reality.	Knowledge and the knower are inextricably linked; events are placed in intelligible frames by a mind that actively engages the world, attaching significance to those events.	The inquirer interacts with participants and the world by using methods closer to literature than to physics; interpretivists probe how meaning is performed and negotiated in the everyday world.	Inquiry is value-centered rather than value-free and strives to recover the moral importance and imagination of the social sciences in order to create change in the world.
<b>Race, Ethnicity, and Gender</b>	Reality is constructed; race, ethnicity, and gender are created by social and cultural interactions.	Knowledge is constructed, situated in the time and place of the knower.	The inquirer must consider aspects of identity (of both the inquirer and the participants) which indicate status and power.	Inquiry is inherently biased and not value neutral.
<b>Arts Based</b>	Reality is reinterpreted and reconfigured through work of art.	Knowledge, represented through a work of art, "results from careful reflection upon and recasting of qualities experienced by the artist into a form that is unique."	The inquirer considers if a particular work invokes the audience to question educational settings, events, and issues.	Inquiry is an "act of personal judgment rather than one of seeking a final truth."
<b>Poststructuralism</b>	Reality in itself is contested. Some post-structuralists deny the concept of reality, while others maintain that language constructs reality.	Knowledge is constructed through signs, governed by the discursive rules for that area of knowledge.	The inquirer attempts to "undermine what has been defined as a present day techno-rational approach to education."	Inquiry is inherently biased and involves a politics and/or an ethic.