Questions for Readings

Miller (1999) Black Hole

The Black Hole of Educational Research


1. According to Miller, what are the “leaks” in the research-to-practice pipeline that attributable to scholars, educators and policy makers?
2. The American Institute for Research evaluated the research base for each of 24 school reform programs. Name the three programs with the strongest research base. Are programs with weak or non-existent research in use? Why?
3. According to Lagemann, what is a fundamental problem facing the educational research? Characterize the “growing debate over rigor and methodology.”
4. What is Gallimore’s (a leading defender of qualitative approaches) view of the quality of qualitative studies?
5. Why do “a growing number of quantitative scholars” want to return to the use of randomized trials? What might be some difficulties to this approach?
6. Why does a “task force sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences” urge researchers to use random sampling and control groups?
7. What is meant by the statement that “the experimental approach is resisted for ideological reasons”? Why was a method of instruction empirically demonstrated to produce the best results largely ignored by practitioners?
8. “Officials at education schools readily admit they do a poor job of training educators to distinguish good research from bad, and also of training their scholars to make their findings accessible to practitioners.”
9. Educational research should focus on ________________________.