

OpenLearn Free Course Trailer
An appreciative approach to inquiry

Narrator:

Inquiry is an important and valued aspect of all educational practices, whether as a stance towards everyday reflection, or as a defined and planned action. However, the term inquiry comes with many assumptions and associations. It's often associated with finding problems we must reflect on, and solutions we must find.

This quite linear view of inquiry can sometimes feel difficult to achieve in the real world, where educational practices are often messy and constantly changing. This free OpenLearn course, *An appreciative approach to inquiry*, reframed inquiry, changing our perspective. Instead of starting from a problem or issues, an appreciative approach starts from what is already positive and generative within our settings as the basis for inquiry and further.

We start from a positive core, focusing on the strengths of our practices and then, beginning a cycle, we immerse ourselves in the practices we are inquiring about, imagine new ways to develop our practices, innovate and design how we might achieve what we have imagined, letting those dreams meet lived reality, and then re-immerses in our new practices to consider where our inquiries might take us.

During the course you'll explore what each stage of the cycle might involve, experiencing activities and developing strategies you can use for individual or collaborative inquiry. Using story, metaphor, and image as stimulus, you will come to think in terms of creating, wondering, feeling, playing, generating, hoping and encouraging.

Finally, you'll discover how the dynamic and messy nature of practice can be celebrated and woven into your appreciative inquiry