

Self-care and Impact on Personal Health and Energy

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Background Leading to My Inquiry (Slide 2)

As a principal, husband, and father of two boys who are heavily involved in extra-curricular activities, my primary focus during the first semester of the school year was on work and family and I was not taking care of myself very well. As a result, I found myself lacking sleep, lacking energy, and putting on additional weight.

The Purpose of My Inquiry (Slide 3)

The purpose of my action research was to intentionally focus on self-care in order to positively impact my overall health and energy levels.

My Wondering (Slide 4)

With this purpose, I wondered if intentionally focusing on taking better care of myself would positively impact my overall health and also lead to feeling higher levels of energy on a daily basis.

My Actions (Slide 5)

On a daily basis, I began to record the following:

- Hours of sleep per night
 - My goal was to get a minimum of 7 hours of sleep per night.
- Number of steps taken per day
 - My goal was to get a minimum of 10,000 steps per day as measured by my Apple Watch.
- Number of exercise minutes per day
 - My goal was to get a minimum of 30 minutes of exercise per day as measured by my Apple Watch.
- Hours of fasting per day
 - My goal was to do a 16:8 fast each day. I would fast 16 hours each day.
- Weight each day
 - My goal was to decrease my weight by 8% in 10 weeks, from January 6, 2020 to March 16, 2020.
- Energy level at 6:00 p.m. each day.
 - My goal was to document my energy level at High, Average, or Low.

Data Collection (Slide 6)

• Each day, I collected data under the following categories, beginning January 6, 2020 and ending March 16, 2020.

Date	Hours of	Hours of	Number of	Weight	Energy	Exercise
	Sleep	Fasting	Steps		Level	Minutes

My Data (Slides 7)

For the ten-week period of my action research project, I collected the following data:

Average	Average	Average	Percentage	Number of Days	Average
Hours of	Hours of	Number of	of Weight	at Each Energy	Number of
Sleep Per	Fasting	Steps	Loss	Level	Exercise
Night					Minutes
7:47	15.9	9,247	5%	High: 32	27:23
				Average: 24	
				Low: 15	

Energy Levels	Average Hours of Sleep Per Night	Average Hours of Fasting	Average Number of Steps	Average Number of Exercise Minutes
High	8:28	16	10,033	43
Average	7:32	16	7,528	15
Low	6:10	16	6,988	14

My Discoveries (Slide 8)

- Learning Statement One:
 - On average, when I got 7.5 to 8.0 hours of sleep each night, I maintained higher energy levels throughout the upcoming day.
- Learning Statement Two:
 - When my energy level was high, I found that my average number of steps and exercise minutes per day were also much higher than when energy levels were average or low.
- Learning Statement Three:
 - I lost 5% of my body weight during the window of time the action research process took place.

Where I Am Heading Next (Slide 9)

- I will continue to monitor hours of sleep with a goal of at least 7 hours per night.
- I will continue to exercise daily with the goal of 12,000 or more steps per day.
- I plan to incorporate running with walking to achieve desired number of steps per day.
- I plan to acquire a gym membership to support strength training a few days per week.
- I will attempt to exercise in the morning, hoping to positively impact energy levels throughout the entire day.
- I will continue intermittent fasting plan of 16-8.
- I will begin a 3-month Keto diet plan.
- I plan to monitor various blood panel levels through quarterly assessments for the next year.

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