“Doubting Voices of Data Interpretation

Learn to say NO and keep thinking/writing!

“You haven’t proved anything! Your research is a SHAM!”

“Yeah, where are the numbers? This is just what you think!”

Retort:

My research has never been about “proving” anything right, good, wrong, bad, or otherwise. My research is about my process of becoming a teacher.

“There isn’t anything here at all. There is nothing interesting. This is really dumb. This isn’t very profound. You should start over.” “Ppsssst! That’s because you are not smart enough!”

Retort:

My experience, my learning, is valuable, rich, and worth telling.

There is nothing more profound then the act of learning to teach.

I will not let this voice devalue these last intense months of my living and learning.

“You are not doing this RIGHT. You are going to FAIL.”

Retort from Anne Lamont, Author and writing instructor (1994):

“Perfectionism is the voice of the oppressor, the enemy of the people.

It will keep you cramped and insane your whole life … perfectionism will ruin your writing, blocking inventiveness and playfulness and life force. …

Perfectionism … will only drive you mad.”

(pp. 28-31)
This isn’t about doing it “right.” It is about having the courage to explore my own becoming.

“Keep it secret, keep it low: what if ‘they’ find you out?”

Retort:

All self-reflection requires vulnerability: the fear of “being found out” is embedded in the belief that I am not good enough. I am.

A Final Retort from T. H. White (1966), The Once and Future King:

Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting.

Learning is the thing for you.

(p. 186)