

Convincing the Public of the Importance of Research-Practice Partnerships

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Partnerships do not always address problems that, when fixed, make for good nightly news stories. One reason why is that partnerships often focus on implementation of initiatives, and most people and journalists think of implementation something simple and straightforward, certainly not newsworthy.

A recent report of the FrameWorks Institute (<http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/>) called *Just Do It: Communicating Implementation Science and Practice* note that many people believe that implementation is a matter of just doing what works. Below is a brief outline of an argument related to how to counter that belief, appealing to values of innovation and ingenuity that the Frameworks Institute argues can help the public appreciate the importance of tackling problems of implementation.

Our argument outline focuses on adapting the argument to address why the work of partnerships in improving implementation is important for education. Your argument will need to be more specific, tailored to how your partnership is supporting implementation of a particular program or initiative.

Argument Outline for Partnerships:

- Problems of implementation make many programs less effective than they could be.
- The complexity of educational system leads to many problems of implementation.
- Partnerships engage, even embrace, complexity with innovative, evidence-based strategies.
- There's a need to apply ingenuity and innovation to problems of implementation, and partnerships can generate novel solutions to persistent problems.
- They develop new solutions, because they bring people together who don't normally think and work together but who have relevant expertise to solve big problems.
- In the past, partnerships have developed effective solutions to problems of implementation, resulting in big improvements to outcomes. That can happen here, too, if we invest in partnerships to solve our problems of implementation.