

■ **TABLE 1.3** Summary of Common Assumptions Made by Educational Researchers

1. There is a world out there that can be studied. This can include studying the inner worlds of individuals.
 2. Some of the world is unique; some of it is regular or patterned or predictable; and much of it is dynamic and complex. (Note: These categories can sometimes overlap.)
 3. The unique, the regular, and the complex in the world all can be examined and studied by researchers.
 4. Researchers should try to follow certain agreed-on norms and practices.
 5. It is possible to distinguish between more and less plausible claims and between good and poor research.
 6. Science cannot provide answers to all questions.
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