



Three levels of text protocol

Purpose

To deepen understanding of a text and explore implications for participants' work.

Facilitation

Stick to the time limits. Each round takes up to 5 minutes per person in a group. Emphasize the need to be careful of air time during the brief group response segment. Do one to three rounds. The protocol can be used as a prelude to a text-based discussion or by itself.

Roles

Facilitator/timekeeper (who also participates); participants.

Process

1. Sit in a circle and identify a facilitator/timekeeper.
2. If participants have not done so ahead of time, have them read the text and identify passages (and a couple of back-ups) that they believe may have important implications for their work.
3. Have the group take part in one to three rounds. A round consists of:
 - One person using up to three minutes to complete three tasks:
 - LEVEL 1: Read aloud the passage she or he has selected.
 - LEVEL 2: Say what she or he thinks about the passage (interpretation, connection to past experiences, etc.).
 - LEVEL 3: Say what she or he sees as the implications for his or her work.
 - The group responding (for a total of two minutes or less) to what has been said.

After the group has given each member a turn for one to three rounds, debrief the process.

Find more tools

This is one of many protocols included in *Powerful Designs for Professional Learning, 2nd Edition* (NSDC, 2008). Turn to *Powerful Designs* for a deeper understanding of effective strategies for collaborative work along with hundreds of supporting tools. Available at store.nsd.org.

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