

Data Driven Dialogue Protocol

Source: Based on work presented by Nancy Love, author of 'Using Data/Getting Results', (2002)

Purpose

To build awareness and understanding of the participant's viewpoints, beliefs, and assumptions about data while suspending judgments. In this protocol, participants engage equally in three phases of data-driven dialogue in order to make shared meaning of the data.

Time allotted

About 90 minutes for the three phases.

Group format

The protocol needs one facilitator, with understanding of and experience with the protocol, a group of teachers who have subject level, grade level, and school level data reports to share. A group can be small or large.

Facilitation tips

- This protocol works best if one person, preferably someone who is familiar with the protocol, acts as the facilitator. This person will not be part of a group that discusses the question(s).
- The facilitator should begin the session by restating the importance of the trust and respect that this protocol requires. Discussions and feedback that take place in the session are professional conversations between the participants and the teacher seeking feedback.
- The facilitator should also explain that the protocol will be implemented with fidelity to the process and the constructive spirit of the process. The facilitator may ask participants to reword or withdraw comments that are evaluative or judgmental.
- The protocol follows the following steps:
 - Introduction (protocol goals, guidelines and schedule): 5 – 10 minutes
 - Phase I Predictions – teachers activate prior knowledge, surface assumptions, and make predictions, thus creating readiness to examine and discuss the data: 5 minutes
 - Think time – before beginning the phase I predictions dialogue, the group reflects privately and record several of their preliminary thoughts about the data: 5 minutes
 - Group begins the phase 1 predictions dialogue: 10 minutes
 - Phase II Observations dialogue. The group engage with the actual data and note only the facts that they can observe in the data (conjectures, explanations, conclusions, and inferences are off-limits): 5 minutes
 - Think time – before beginning phase II observations dialogue, the group privately studies the data and records their observations: 5 minutes
 - Group begins the phase II observations dialogue (do not use 'because ...', 'therefore ...', 'it seems', instead use 'I observe that ...', 'I can count ...', 'I'm surprised that I see ...': 10 minutes

- Phase III Inferences dialogue. The group (a) generate multiple explanations for phase II observations; (b) identify additional data that may be needed to confirm/contradict explanations; (c) propose solutions/responses; (d) identify data needed to monitor implementation of the solutions/responses: 10 minutes
- Think time – before beginning phase III inferences dialogue, reflect privately, using a thought starter to prompt thinking, e.g. I believe the data suggests ... because ...: 5 minutes
- Group begins the phase III inference dialogue: 10 minutes
- Debrief (open discussion of the experiences of the group): 1-2 minutes