

Save the Last Word for ME Protocol

Source: Developed by Patricia Averette

Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to clarify and deepen our thinking about a text.

Time allotted

Approximately 30 minutes.

Group format

The protocol needs one facilitator, with understanding of and experience with the protocol, a group of 4 participants.

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
 - Each participant silently identifies what she/he considers to be the most significant idea addressed in the article, and highlights that passage.
 - A volunteer from the group identifies the part of the article they found to be the most significant and reads it out loud to the group (saying nothing about why they chose that particular passage).
 - The group pause for a moment to consider the passage.
 - The other participants respond to the passage (each have 1 minute to say what it makes them think about, what questions it raises for them, etc).
 - The first participants state why they chose that part of the article and respond to, or build on, what they have heard from their colleagues: 3 minutes
 - Steps 3-6 are followed until all 4 participants in the group have had a chance to be the presented and to have the 'last word'.
 - Optional open dialogue about the text and the ideas and questions raised during the first part of the protocol.
 - Debrief (open discussion of the experiences of the group): 10 minutes