

### Text-Based Seminar Protocol

Source: Gene Thompson-Grove

#### Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to enlarge the understanding of a text, not the achievement of some particular understanding.

#### Time allotted

Approximately 60 minutes.

#### Group format

The protocol needs one facilitator, with understanding of and experience with the protocol, a group of 6 or more 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
  - The facilitator refers to the text and asks the participants to go to it (use page numbers to guide them).
  - The facilitator reads the text aloud (the participants listen actively).
  - The participants comment on the text (the facilitator invites them to build on what others say, referring to them by name. Allow for silences and pauses, don't step on others' talk).
  - The participants converse directly with each other and let the conversation flow as much as possible (without raising hands or using a speaker's list).
  - The participants ask questions of each other in order to build understanding.
  - Debrief (open discussion of the experiences of the group): 10 minutes