

The Story Dialogue Method Protocol

Source: adapted from the *Story Development Guide*

Purpose

This protocol focuses on developing shared insights, stimulated by a story about an individual's experience of a shared endeavor. The aim is to move from personal experience to more generalized knowledge and action.

Time allotted

About 90 minutes with a group of about six people and a particular set of objectives in mind.

Group format

The protocol needs one facilitator, with understanding of and experience with the protocol, the storyteller, and a group of about six teachers with a particular set of objectives in mind to move from personal experience to more generalized knowledge and action.

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:
 - The storyteller writes their story based around their experience of a particular issue/theme (include descriptions of the event and feeling about what happened and how it affected you): Prior the session
 - Introduction (protocol goals, guidelines and schedule): 5 – 10 minutes
 - Storyteller tells the story, being descriptive, evaluative, and interpretive (group is silent): 5 - 10 minutes
 - The group jot down their immediate reflections on the story, form a reflection circle and each member then shares their reflections with the group (one at a time with no interruptions, people can opt to pass): 10 minutes
 - The group have a structured dialogue session (this is not an interrogation of the storyteller; it is important to respect different views; use active listening skills; several group members should be asked to make notes of additional information gain during this dialogue: 25-45 minutes
 - Each person shares their notes with the group (group is silent): 5 minutes

- The group creates 2-4 insight cards for each type of questions, or 8-16 cards altogether (insights could include useful lesson tips or questions/challenges that are still left): 15-20 minutes
- Debrief (open discussion of the experiences of the group): 10 minutes