



EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

Final Word Discussion Protocol

This protocol is designed to help participants understand the meaning of a text, and particularly to see how meaning can be constructed and supported by the ideas of others. After the presenter shares his or her thinking, interesting similarities and differences in interpretations will arise as other participants share their thinking without judgment or debate. The presenter listens and may then change his or her perspective, add to it or stick with original ideas without criticism. This protocol is especially helpful when people struggle to understand their reading.

Roles:

Timekeeper
Facilitator
Rotating presenters

The Steps:

1. All participants may read a common text or each reads a different text for jigsaw effect.
2. Silent reading and text-coding based on desired outcomes. Mark passages for discussion clearly or place on cards so others can quickly locate them or presenter can quickly present them.
3. Presenter shares a designated number of passages and his or her thinking about them
4. Each participant comments on what was shared in less than 1 minute each
5. Presenter gets the Last Word, sharing how his or her thinking evolved after listening to others or re-emphasizing what was originally shared

Promoting Critical Thinking:

- Design questions/topics for reading the discussions to elicit student reasoning and use of evidence. As students read, they capture passages for sharing on a recording form and include reasons for their selection
- Design prompts for the discussion that include the reasons or evidence for student thinking and selection of a particular passage
- Ex: What's one reason why...? How do you know...? How did...show this? What's the evidence for...? What would happen if...Why? How has your thinking about... changed and why? What do you predict...Why?
- Design prompts for debrief of the discussion to include specific ways in which the discussion met rubric criteria, etc.
- Ex: What was one way...met our discussion criteria? How could we improve on...why is this important? What's an example of quality sharing in the discussion?

Follow steps 1-5 with each additional participant taking the role of presenter.

Debrief:

6. Discuss how hearing from others impacted your ideas. How did your thinking change throughout the protocol? What worked in our discussion? What were some challenges? How can we improve next time?