

A Protocol for Group Sharing

Directions:

Participants should work in groups of four.

1. Each group should appoint a timekeeper, someone whose watch has a second hand.
2. Each person in the group will have one minute to describe the one idea or concept from the article that he/she considered most important, useful, or applicable.
3. Immediately after the person shares his/her “most important idea,” the other three people in the group will have one minute each to respond or add he/she thoughts about this idea. Anyone who has no comment can “pass.”
4. When the conversation returns to the original speaker, that person will have one minute to make a final comment, “the last word,” about the idea.
5. The process repeats with each person in the foursome getting to describe the most important part of the article for them, then receiving comments from the group members and returning to the original speaker for the last word. With a group of four, this entire process should take five minutes per round.
6. Timing on this is important so that the conversation will flow and everyone will get to speak. It is the responsibility of the group members not to exceed their allotted time when the timekeeper indicates that their time is up.
7. After everyone has had a chance to initiate a round of conversation, allow one minute per person for any final comments about this process of sharing. Did you like it? When might you use it in the context of staff development work?