

# Collaboration through Discussion Protocols



## Save the Last Word for Me

1. Divide class into groups of three or four.
2. All students do assigned reading before they come together. Groups *do not* have to read the same text--this can be a way to differentiate.
3. Either as part of their preparation or when the groups come together, have each student select passages from the text (usually 2-4) they will share. Give them a clear purpose for their selection. These could be passages they found most compelling, that best supports a question or prompt, or is significant to idea, plot, or character development.
4. The first student shares any one passage they chose and says nothing else. The other two or three members of the group:
  - a. underline the passage,
  - b. take a short time to think about it and make annotations, and
  - c. react by taking turns explaining what meaning they see in the passage. If it makes sense to your purpose, you can have the students try to explain why the first student selected this particular quote.
5. The discussion comes back to the first student, who reacts to their classmates and gives their reason for choosing the passage. If it makes sense, this student can also explain if the other students were correct in their guesses.
6. The process repeats until all students have shared their chosen passage.

**Note:** This protocol can be modified to be used with images as well by having students choose 1 image from a collection. On a separate paper, students can write why they chose the passage and/or how it connects to the prompt/purpose you chose. When sharing, other members of the group would individually reflect and jot ideas before taking turns to explain what meaning they see in the image.