

Save the Last Word For Me

A Discussion Protocol

Directions: As a group, pick roles. You will need a timekeeper, a reader, and a manager. Each of you will be a presenter at one point during the discussion. Begin by reading the text _____ independently.

1. Participants each silently identify what they consider to be the most significant idea addressed in the article, and highlight their chosen passage.
2. When the group is ready, a member will volunteer to be the presenter. The presenter identifies the part of the article that he or she found to be most significant (page and paragraph #, etc.), waits for the group to join them in the text, and reads it aloud to the group. The presenter says nothing about why he or she chose that particular passage.
3. The group should pause for a moment to reflect on the passage before moving to the next step.
4. The other three participants each have **30 seconds to respond** to the passage—saying what it makes them think about, what questions it raises for them, etc.
5. The presenter then has **1 minute to state why** he or she chose that part of the text and to respond to—or build on—what the other participants have said.
6. The same pattern is followed until all four members of the group have had a chance to be the presenter and to have “the last word.”
7. The group debriefs the experience. How was this a useful way to explore the ideas in the text and to explore your own thinking? How did each member of the group “add value” to the experience? How might you add more value next time?