

## Digging into Data Protocol

**Purpose:** To help a group engage in productive dialogue about data, and to build collective capacity to make sense of data relevant to teaching and learning. You can use this protocol with multiple small groups, each unpacking a different piece of data, and then sharing out the group. Or you can use this protocol to have everyone unpack the same piece of data (in this case, modify Stage 3).

### **Roles:**

- *Facilitator* who guides the group through the process and ensures that the protocol and norms are upheld.
- *Notetaker* who captures notes from the discussion and is prepared to share out for the group.

**Norms:** Data conversations can make people feel vulnerable. A structured dialogue helps maintain safety and focus.

- Share the air: step up, step back, invite others in.
- Hard on the content, soft on the people.
- Focus on learning, not judging.
- Stick to the protocol.

### **Phase 1: Getting Oriented (5 minutes)**

Participants take 2-3 minutes to individually review the data. The facilitator then leads a quick check-in: Does everyone understand what is being presented?

### **Phase 2: Discussion Rounds (25-30 minutes)**

*Round 1: Observations & Celebrations (share around)*

- Each person shares one thing they noticed that they want to celebrate and/or call attention to. During this portion it is important to just describe what you see as objectively as possible. Resist the urge to interpret or pose questions.
- Helpful sentence frame: **I notice....**

*Round 2: Questions (share other direction, start with a different person)*

- Each person shares a question that emerges for them from the data.
- Helpful sentence frame: **I wonder...**

*Round 3: Hypotheses (facilitator facilitates a discussion)*

- Participants share possible hypotheses or explanations for what they see, trying to identify multiple alternative explanations.
- Helpful sentence frames: **This could be because... Or it could be because...**

*Round 4: Next Steps (facilitator facilitates a discussion)*

- Participants share what they might do next given their understanding of the data.
- Helpful sentence frames: **One thing we could do next is...**

### **Phase 3: Share out** (optional, time varies)

The *notetaker* from each group has **1 minute** to share highlights from their group's discussion of the data. Please focus on sharing:

- 1-2 observations
- 1-2 questions/hypothesis that emerged
- 1 potential implication/next step for our network

(Skip/modify this step if all participants have looked at the same data or if you only have one group.)

### **Phase 4: Jigsaw & Discussion (15 minutes, with your team)**

*Designate a notetaker who will capture the ideas from this discussion for the Hub.*

Discuss the following as a group:

- What are we learning from this data about our network?
- Does this feel like the “right” data to be collecting to know if we are making progress toward our network aim?
- What are our hopes for our network?
- What data are we craving?

(Skip/modify this step if you only have one group.)

### **Phase 5: Debrief (5-10 minutes, with your team)**

The facilitator leads the group in reflecting on this *process*. Resist the urge to return the conversation to the data.

*Helpful Guiding Questions:*

- What was this process like for you?
- What adjustments would you make?
- How might we use this protocol in our work, with our team?
- How did looking at data influence your understanding of the issue?
- What are we learning about how to package data so that we can engage in productive conversations?

\*This protocol has been created by the HTH GSE Center for Research on Equity and Innovation, and adapted from a similar protocol designed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning