
The Golden Line and Last Word Protocols for Discussing a Text

Purpose

These protocols prime engaged reading. Each reader is expected to react to a text, not simply swallow it.

Golden Line Procedure

1. Explain the directions:
 - Read silently and Talk to the Text.
 - Pay particular attention to these places in the text:
 - Where the text raises questions for you
 - Where it confirms what you already believe
 - Where it makes you say aha
 - Where it conflicts with your beliefs
 - Where it causes you to reconsider prior assumptions
 - Choose two different “golden lines” that you want to share with the team. (You will only share one, but two gives you a choice, depending on what other team members may have already offered.)
2. After the reading, explain how team members will share their lines:
 - Read aloud your golden line.
 - Direct team members to its exact location in the text, explain why you chose that line and its significance to you.
 - Do not accept comments or questions at this time.
 - Take no more than one minute.
3. Facilitate discussion of team members’ selections and thinking.
4. Consider how this protocol might be used with students.