

Handout

Instructions for Save the Last Word for Me

This discussion strategy helps students practice being active speakers and active listeners. All students will participate as both active speakers and active listeners in a group conversation.

Step 1: Read the Text and Reflect

- On your own, read the assigned text and choose one sentence that stands out to you.
- Write the sentence down, along with an explanation of why you chose it. The following questions can help you write your explanation:
 - What does this quote mean to you? Does it remind you of something that has happened in your own life? Or something that you have read or watched?
 - Does this quote relate to something that happened in history or is happening in current events? If so, how?

Step 2: Share with Your Group

- Meet with your small group.
- Choose the order in which you would like to share your quotes and assign one group member to be a timekeeper.
- The first student should read their quote but not their explanation.
- The other two students should discuss the quote for three minutes. The following questions can help guide your discussion:
 - What do you think the quote means?
 - Why do you think these words might be important?
 - Why do you think this quote was chosen?
- After five minutes, the first student should read their explanation.
- Then repeat this process with the other two students, taking turns to read your quotes and discuss them.

Step 3: Reflect and Discuss

- Respond to the following prompt in your journal or on a separate sheet of paper:

- Why did the murder of Emmett Till galvanize a generation of activists to pursue racial justice?
- After you've written, share your response with your group members.
- If new ideas come up for you as your group members share, add them to your own response.
- In the next activity, you'll be responsible for summarizing your assigned text to another group of students who have not read the text.