Navigating Data Analysis

"Data analysis can be defined as creating a picture of what you have learned based on careful, thoughtful and a systemic look at your data." ~ Fichtman Dana

STEP 1: Description (20 min) STEP 2: Sense Making (20 min) Questions to ask when reading the data the second time: Initial sort of data: • What was the issue/tension/dilemma/problem that led me to my inquiry question? • What are my data sources? What do I notice? Who's in my class? What did I see as I inquired? How do I organize my data? How might my data be sorted, grouped, or re-named? • What are my initial insights into the data? • What pieces of my data stand out from the rest? STEP 3: Interpretation (20 min) STEP 4: Implications (After Triad Discussion) The final step is to ask one last set of implication questions: By looking at the patterns or themes that have emerged ask yourself the following questions: • What was my initial wondering, and how do these patterns inform it? • What have I learned about "my class"? What is happening in each pattern and across patterns? What new wonderings do I have? How are these happenings connected to my inquiry? Each other? Across the data sets? • What have I learned about the larger context? • What have I learned about myself as a leader? So far, three discoveries I've made from reading through my data are... • What changes might I make in my practice?

Adapted from: Fichtman Dana, N., (2009). Leading with Passion and Knowledge. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.