Three Levels of Text Protocol


Purpose
This protocol is designed to deepen the understanding of a text and explore implications for participants’ work. It asks participants to respond to 3 levels of the text: literal (level 1), interpretation (level 2), and implications (level 3).

Facilitation
Stick to the time limits. Each round takes up to 5 minutes per person in a group. Emphasize the need to watch air time during the brief group response segment. Do 1-3 rounds. Can be used as a prelude to a text-based discussion or by itself.

Roles
Facilitator/timekeeper (who also participates); participants

Process
1. Sit in a circle and identify a facilitator/timekeeper.

2. If participants have not done so ahead of time, have them read the text and identify passages that they feel may have important implications for their work.

3. Do 1-3 rounds. A round consists of:
   • One person using up to 3 minutes to:
     Level 1: Read aloud the passage she/he has selected. If another participant has previously read one of your passages, select another to read.
     Level 2: Say what she/he thinks about the passage (interpretation, connection to past experiences, etc.)
     Level 3: Say what she/he sees as the implications for her/his work.
   • The group responding (for a total of up to 2 minutes) to what has been said.

4. After all rounds have been completed, debrief the process.