

Matrix Reading Protocol

Purpose. The purpose of this protocol is to allow a large group divided into a number of small groups to assimilate a number of individual readings in an effective and efficient manner. Individuals discussing the text in small groups also read the text from differing points of view, bringing their own knowledge and experience to the discussion. A group synthesis around guiding questions allows all participants to gain an understanding of all readings. Since all participants have all readings, they can read the material themselves after the session.

Process. Participants work in table groups. They appoint a facilitator, timekeeper, and a recorder. The facilitator acts as the lead questioner and facilitator of the protocol. The timekeeper keeps track of the time and tells speakers when their allotted time is used. The recorder collects participants' responses for later sharing with the larger group.

1. Participants will have 15-20 minutes to read the text.
2. The facilitator presents the first of the four guiding questions (see below).
3. Group members respond one at a time taking **one minute** each. The timekeeper reminds speakers when time is up. Note that some questions may require answers that link information from the text with prior knowledge and experience of the participants. Unlike other text-based discussions, bringing other sources of information into the answer is encouraged.
4. The facilitator presents the remaining questions in the same manner.
5. After all groups have finished with all questions, tables will report out to the large group. General discussion will follow.

Guiding Questions for School Action Research

1. What are three critical attributes of action research?
2. Think of duFour and PLC work. What are the connections between action research and PLC?
3. Think of good teaching. What are the connections between action research and the essential attributes of good teaching?
4. A colleague says, "I don't have time to do action research. It's all I can do to teach what I'm supposed to!" What is your response?