



Save the Last Word for Me

Adapted from a protocol developed by Patricia Averette.

Purpose

To clarify and deepen our thinking about articles we read.

Roles

Timekeeper/facilitator, who both participates and keeps the process moving.

The process is designed to build on each other's thinking, and not to enter into a dialogue.

Participants may decide to have an open dialogue about the text at the end of the 20 minutes.

Timing is important; each round should last approximately 5 minutes.

Total Time

Approximately 20 minutes.

The Protocol

1. Create a group of **4 participants**. Choose a timekeeper (who also participates) who has a watch.
2. Each participant silently reads the article and identifies what s/he considers to be (for him or her) the most significant idea addressed in the article, and highlights that passage.
3. When the group is ready, a volunteer member identifies the part of the article that s/he found to be most significant and reads it out loud to the group. This person (the *presenter*) says nothing about why s/he chose that particular passage.
4. The group should pause for a moment to consider the passage before moving to the next step.
5. The other 3 participants each have 1 minute to respond to the passage — saying what it makes them think about, what questions it raises for them, etc.
6. The first participant then has 2 minutes to state why s/he chose that part of the article and to respond to — or build on — what s/he heard from his/her colleagues.
7. The same pattern is followed until all four members of the group have had a chance to be the presenter and to have “the last word.”