



Center for Leadership & Educational Equity

The Making Meaning Protocol

Adapted for Use with a Text

Developed by Daniel Baron.

1. Getting Started

- Participants read the text in silence, making brief notes about aspects of it that they particularly notice.

2. Describing the Text

- The facilitator asks the group: “What do you see?”
- Group members provide answers without making judgments about the quality of the text or their personal preferences.
- If an interpretation or judgment emerges, the facilitator asks for the evidence on which it is based.

3. Asking Questions About the Text

- The facilitator asks the group: “What questions does this text raise for you?”
- Group members state any questions they have about the text.
- The facilitator takes notes.

4. Speculating about the Meaning/Significance of the Text

- The facilitator asks the group: “What is significant about this text?”
- Participants, based on their reading of the text, construct meaning about the insights, problems, or issues that the text seems focused on.

5. Discussing Implications for Our Work

- The facilitator invites everyone to share any thoughts they have about ways this particular text might influence their work as teachers and educators.

6. Reflecting on the Making Meaning Protocol

- The group reflects on the experiences of or reactions to the protocol.