



Looking at Student Work

Building in the Habit of Looking at Equity

Developed by Nancy Mohr.

Purpose

To focus looking at student work specifically so that it furthers equity for our students, our teachers and our schools, in order to go beyond protocols to the next step which must be *specific actions*.

Time allotted

60 minutes

Group format

10-15 participants

Facilitation tips

There must be appropriate community building before using any protocol. Suggestions include: (and these are only a few of the many things that can be done — there has to be a lot of facilitator judgment used)

- Reflection on the word *equity*
- Dyads on feelings about equity
- Introductions, which include self-identification, historical moments, etc.

And building norms for doing hard and sensitive work together — if this hasn't already been done. If it has been done months ago, time for a review.

The Activity

The first difference is that the presenter bringing the student work is required to have a question which is based on a genuine inquiry question related to equity, and his or her work towards it. Examples could be:

- I am working on girls and math achievement; what evidence can you see that this is taking place?
- Is there evidence that the rigor I hoped was in this assignment was really there?
- Looking at these group projects, what evidence is there that there is a fair and equitable group process in place?

1. Use any of the following protocols to look for ways to answer the presenter's question: Collaborative Assessment Conference, the Tuning Protocol, Standards in Practice Protocol, Consultancy Protocol.
2. The second difference is that when the presenter reflects/responds it is required that they go further than their current thinking, based on the feedback they get. They are to be specific about what the next steps are going to be, what they plan to do and how they will be accountable to the group for doing it.

Reflection questions following the activity

- How well does the presenter feel the question has been answered?
- How well do we feel we answered the presenter's question?
- What have each of us learned about building the habit of equity through doing this protocol?
- What are our own next steps?