

Why Use A Robust PLC Discussion Protocol?

- Effective PLC discussions on student work require a systematic approach for focused analysis and collaborative decision-making.
- Discussion protocols guide teams to consolidate their focus, preventing distractions from unrelated topics.
- Examples below highlight PLC perspectives: facilitating focus and refining perceptions of proficiency.



Video 1: This video demonstrates efficient PLC facilitation for student work analysis in a short time. Adhering to the protocol is crucial for focus, reducing bias, and enhancing professional learning.

Video 2: Highlights a well-organized PLC where teachers collectively calibrate their perception of "proficiency," aligning expectations. Comparing it to a choir practice, the analogy emphasizes the importance of everyone hearing and singing the same "pitch" to prevent variations from the standard.



Tools for the PLC

[Success Criteria Rubric](#)
[Scoring Rubric](#)
[PLC Note-taking tool](#)

Guide:

1. **Start with Norms and Objectives:** Start by quickly reviewing norms and asking which is most important today. Clarify objectives for the next 30 minutes, aligning with learning criteria. **Example Script:** *"Which norm is most important to you TODAY?"*
2. **Review Work/Data:** Prompt team members for initial thoughts on the selected work/data. Encourage reflection and sharing of observations in a round-robin discussion. **Example Script:** *"We'll review our first Annotation data set and plan the next instructional steps for all students in the next 30 minutes. Then, we'll strategize for the week ahead, aligning teaching, analysis, and learning with standards. We'll prepare for varied student performance levels and agree on data/products for next week's meeting before wrapping up."*
3. **Identify Patterns:** Discuss emerging patterns and trends in the work, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement. Use probing questions to deepen analysis. **Example script:** *"First impressions on this work/data? What insights do you gather? What does that imply? What's clear and what prompts further questions? What opportunities do you see?"*
4. **Link to Strategies:** Connect observed outcomes with instructional strategies. Evaluate the effectiveness of teaching methods and consider adjustments.
5. **Actionable Goals:** Based on discussion, establish actionable goals for instructional improvement. Document insights, agreed-upon steps, and responsibilities for follow-up.

Maintaining a collaborative and supportive atmosphere throughout this process is essential for fostering open dialogue and shared responsibility for student success within the PLC.



For more information or support implementing this structure, contact briggshale@waterfalllearning.com