



## CONTEXTUAL LENS PROTOCOL

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### (OPEN ACCESS VERSION)

THE CONTEXTUAL LENS PROTOCOL WAS CREATED TO SUPPORT FACILITATORS WITH THE GOAL OF TEACHING & LEARNING FOR *UNDERSTANDING* AND *TRANSFER*<sup>1</sup>. THIS PROTOCOL HELPS US TO GAIN DEEPER INSIGHT AND ENGAGE IN REFLECTIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED DISCOURSE ABOUT ANY GIVEN TOPIC BECAUSE *CONTEXT MATTERS*.

AS WE READ, OBSERVE, REFLECT AND DIALOGUE WITH EACH OTHER, WE MUST BE AWARE OF THE VARIETY OF CONTEXTS UNDER WHICH WE THINK AND SPEAK. WHEN WE ARE CLEAR AND EXPLICIT ABOUT OUR “LENS”, WE HELP OUR COLLEAGUES & TEAM MEMBERS GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING.

### CONTEXTUAL LENSES

<b>HISTORICAL</b>	<b>CULTURAL</b>	<b>INQUIRY</b>
<b>POLITICAL</b>	<b>LINGUISTIC</b>	<b>REFLECTIVE/REFLEXIVE</b>
<b>ECONOMIC</b>	<b>GENDER</b>	<b>RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY</b>
<b>SOCIAL/SOCIETAL</b>	<b>POSITIONAL</b>	<b>SUPPOSITION</b>
<b>“OPEN” LENS (CREATED BY THE INDIVIDUAL)</b>		

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<sup>1</sup> Transfer is a concept based on Understanding by Design where curriculum and assessment goals help students gain *skills* and *understanding* that *transfer* beyond the learning environment and into real-world contexts.



### STEP 1. INPUT: *READING, THINKING, LISTENING, OBSERVING*

AS YOU ARE TAKING “IN” INFORMATION, ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY HOW YOU ARE PROCESSING IT.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- *WHAT THEMES ARISE? WHY?*
- *HOW AM I PROCESSING THIS INFORMATION? WHY?*

### STEP 2. PROCESS: *INTERNAL & RESPECTIVE*

IDENTIFY THE *CONTEXTUAL LENS[ES]* THAT NATURALLY HELP YOU TO GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE TOPIC/CONTENT. CHOOSE FROM THE LIST OF 12 LENSES.

\* TIP: LESS IS MORE.

### STEP 3. OUTPUT: *DEBATE, DIALOGUE, DISCOURSE... WRITE!*

PRACTICE ENGAGING THROUGH YOUR *CONTEXTUAL LENS* BY BEING EXPLICIT, USING EVIDENCE, AND INCLUDING YOUR PERSONAL NARRATIVE. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOUR OWN *POSITIONAL LENS* IS UNIQUE WHICH HELPS OTHERS (INCLUDING YOURSELF) FURTHER UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT/THEME.

### STEP 4. REFLECT & REFLEX

CONSIDER HOW YOUR THINKING HAS EVOLVED BASED ON A CONVERSATION YOU HAVE HAD WITH YOUR COLLEAGUE/S OR *AFTER* JOURNALING. FIND A *REFLEX PARTNER* TO HELP YOU PROCESS.

ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- *WHAT ARE MY BIASES?*
- *WHICH CONTEXTUAL LENS DO I OFTEN USE?*
- *WHICH CONTEXTUAL LENS WILL PUSH ME TO THINK “DEEPER”?*
- *WHICH CONTEXTUAL LENS CHALLENGES ME?*
- *HOW & WHY MIGHT MY AWARENESS HELP COLLEAGUES/STUDENTS ENGAGE DIFFERENTLY?...AUTHENTICALLY?*

#### **Reflex Partner**

*How will I become accountable for my actions? Who will support my growth?*

**A reflex buddy is your accountability partner. They must be someone that you trust and respect enough to be neutral, supportive, and accountable for challenging you, stretching your thinking, acknowledging [inherent] biases and/or affirming your commitments.**



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