



Wow and Wonder Protocol: Examining Our Work

Roles

Presenter: Shares their work, answers questions, and poses a question or problem for the group to provide feedback or analyze.

Facilitator: Keeps the process moving, explains the steps of the protocol, asks questions, listens, takes notes, and keeps time.

Listeners: Listen, take notes, ask clarifying questions, and reflect on the protocol. The listeners try to give feedback to the presenter and try to help the presenter analyze the issue or question that was presented. It is not essential that the listeners solve the problem posed by the presenter.

Protocol Steps

Step 1: Introduction

The facilitator provides an overview of the protocol and its purpose. Time is established for each step. The facilitator clarifies what to do if the group is not staying within the time limits for each step of the protocol or if inappropriate comments are made.

Step 2: Presentation

The presenter introduces the work. This includes an explanation to help colleagues understand the context and goal. Include anything that is relevant. Then the presenter poses one or two questions they have about the unit they have designed. For example, “I am struggling with my essential questions, I am

This protocol is designed to help unit designer gain understanding about their work, and to learn from each other. The protocol can also be used to examine student work or educator practice. It is essential that the facilitator does not let one person monopolize the discussion.

not sure if they are really essential questions or if they really hit the most important aspects of my unit?" (5 mins)

Step 3: Reflection

The group spends time in silent examination of the written work and the presentation. This is an opportunity for the participants to reflect and jot down notes or questions. (2 mins)

Step 4: Clarifying Questions

Colleagues ask clarifying questions about the work. These questions help the reader understand what the work consists of and how it was accomplished. The presenter answers the questions factually (Clarifying questions are usually factual questions that can be easily answered by the presenter.). (3 mins)

Step 5: Wows

The presenter moves out of the discussion and silently takes notes during the "wows". Colleagues comment on the "wows" of the work. They state the understanding gained from looking at the work. They describe what the work demonstrates to them and what insights were gained. (3 mins)

Step 6: Wonders

The presenter continues to silently take notes listening for new ideas and perspectives. Colleagues comment on the "wonders" of the work using appropriate probing questions whenever possible. For example, "I wonder if you might have considered that having fewer understanding would make it easier to concentrate on the big ideas of the unit?"

Colleagues also comment on other pertinent questions the work brings up. (7 mins)

Step 7: Feedback

The presenter has time to reflect on what he/she learned. The presenter reflects on how he/she may use the comments provided. What prompted him/her to think differently about the work presented? The presenter should not use this time to define their work or further their actions. (2 mins)

Step 8: Debrief

Participants and presenter reflect on the protocol. (3 mins)

- What was helpful about the process?
- What was difficult?
- How could you use this protocol in other settings?

*Adapted from *Wows and Wonders, Examining Student Work*, and used with the permission of Atlas Communities

