

SAVE THE

LAST WORD

Developed by Patricia Averette

The purpose of this activity is to clarify and deepen our thinking about articles we read.

ROLES:

Timekeeper/facilitator, who both participates and keeps the process moving. The process is designed to build on each other's thinking, and not to enter into a dialogue. Participants may decide to have an open dialogue about the text at the end of the 30 minutes. Timing is important; each round should last approximately 7 minutes.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Create a group of 4 participants. Choose a timekeeper (who also participates) who has a watch.
2. Each participant silently identifies what s/he considers to be for him/her the most significant idea addressed in the article, and highlights that passage.
3. When the group is ready, a volunteer member identifies the part of the article that s/he found to be most significant and reads it out loud to the group. This person (the presenter) says nothing about why s/he chose that particular passage.
4. The group should pause for a moment to consider the passage before moving to the next step.
5. The other 3 participants each have 1 minute to respond to the passage – saying what it makes them think about, what questions it raises for them, etc.
6. The first participant then has 3 minutes to state why s/he chose that part of the article and to respond to— or build on — what s/he heard from his/her colleagues.
7. The same pattern is followed until all four members of the group have had a chance to be the presenter and to have “the last word.”
8. Optional open dialogue about the text and the ideas and questions raised during the first part of the protocol.
9. Debrief the experience. How was this a useful way to explore the ideas in the text and to explore your own thinking?

