



DPS Curriculum Connection

The Dr. Many Experience—Reflections and Tools

I have heard many positive thoughts, comments, and reflections from staff members over the past week in regard to last week's presentation from Dr. Many. I was especially intrigued when he spoke about the different protocols that could be used when working with groups of students or adults. Our time is precious and we need to rely on ideas that are out there, yet make them our own to suit our needs or situation. I love a quote I read recently from Barbara Grizzuti Harrison—*"There are no original ideas. There are only original people."* I went on to the National School Reform Faculty website that Dr. Many mentioned to see what ideas are out there that would meet the needs of our teachers, students, and staff. One of the topics I have been hearing in PLC discussions and reading about in common core articles relates to the ability of students to take a position on a topic and argue/defend their position. There is a *Four "A"s Text Protocol* on the website that addresses this, and it can be done across all disciplines and at a variety of age levels.

1. The group reads a piece of text silently, highlighting it and writing notes in the margin on post-it notes in answer to the following four questions.
 - What Assumptions does the author of the text hold?
 - What do you Agree with in the text?
 - What do you want to Argue with in the text?
 - What parts of the text do you want to Aspire to?
2. In small groups, have each person identify one assumption in the text, citing the text as evidence.
3. Continue to go around in small groups or facilitate with the group as a whole the remaining "A"s, taking them one at a time—what do students want to argue with, agree with, and aspire to in the text? Students move seamlessly from one "A" to the next, giving each "A" enough time for full exploration.
4. End the session with an open discussion framed around a question such as: What does this mean for our work with.....? This could start out as a discussion for modeling purposes, and move to an authentic writing experience.

This protocol allows cooperative learning, the ability to incorporate an authentic literacy experience, the ability for students to defend a position with facts, and ways for students to make connections with what they are learning in school and real world experiences. I encourage you to take a look at this website for ideas that can support what you are doing in the classroom or building. I've also attached two other protocols with this e-mail that peaked my interest: *Examining Student Work-A Constructivist Protocol* and *Atlas-Looking at Data*. I look forward to your thoughts and comments regarding this website. Feel free to contact me with any questions, or ways in which I can support your work.

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Websites Connected
With Dr. Tom Many's
Presentation

Solution Tree—<http://www.solution-tree.com>

National School Reform Faculty—http://www.nsrffharmony.org/protocol/a_z.html

Academic Dates to Remember:

IMEA Auditions	10/15
Board of Education Meeting	10/19
DHS Fall Choral Concert	10/19
End of 1st Quarter	10/21
ACT Test	10/22
Lincoln Discovery Center Night	10/27