

Protocol for Examining Data

Developed from National School Reform Faculty Materials

Purpose: This protocol is for use in guiding a group through data analysis.

Materials: Copies of data for team members. Highlighters.

1. What do you notice? (10 minutes: 3 minutes silently writing individual observations, 7 minutes discussing as a group)

This step is to only state what you see without reaching conclusions or making recommendations.

- Note what you can see
- Note important things that “pop out”
- Look for patterns or trends that emerge
- Note surprising or unexpected data

2. What do you wonder? (10 minutes: 3 minutes silently writing individual observations, 7 minutes discussing as a group)

This step is to look beyond the obvious for relationships, cause/effect and to make inferences related to student learning.

- What can you infer from the data?
- Generate possible explanations for what the data reveals.
- Does the data provided address your wonderings?

3. What good news is there to celebrate? 5 minutes to identify strengths

Look for indications of success in the data. What is the “good news”?

4. What are the problems of practice suggested by the data?

(10 minutes: 3 minutes silently writing individual ideas for practice, 7 minutes discussing as a group)

This step is designed to help the group identify connections between what is missing, what needs to change and what is working.

- Focus on practices for improving student learning.
- What issues have been raised about classroom practices?
- What is the **first step** to increase student success in that area?
- Where do you suggest we go from here?
- What are the next steps this group should take?
- Is there other data or material we should look at?

After three minutes discuss of what this data implies for classroom practice. Are the problems of practice the same for all teachers? Narrow the focus of the problems of practice.

5. What are our key conclusions? What recommendations does the team have for addressing the problems of practice?

This is the action phase of data analysis. Suggest ways that the problems of practice can be addressed. The group will design an action plan for next steps that might outline changes in instructional practice, analysis of materials used or require a deeper understanding of the learning targets and standards. The recorder will record this action plan for next steps in the minutes.