

# Play the Role

**Time: 60 minutes**

**Materials: Note cards,  
Post-its**

**Purpose** Use Play the Role to give each participant in the group an opportunity to explore and gain a deeper understanding of an article. This protocol is best used with longer articles.

- Process**
1. Label 4 note cards with the group roles and their definitions:
    - Summarizer: highlights key ideas in the article
    - Questioner: poses questions about the article
    - Clarifier: addresses confusing parts of the article and attempts to answer the questions posed by the Questioner
    - Predictor: makes guesses about where the article is going next
  2. Have participants get into groups of 4.
  3. Give each participant a note card that identifies his/her role in the group.
  4. Have participants read a few paragraphs of the article. Ask them to take notes on post-its as they read to prepare for their roles in the discussion.
  5. Once they have finished reading the paragraphs from the article, have participants play their roles in the discussion.
  6. The Summarizer begins the discussion by highlighting the key ideas at this point in the reading. The Questioner then poses questions about the selection. The Clarifier addresses confusing parts and attempts to answer the questions that were posed. The Predictor then offers guesses about where the article will go next.
  7. The roles in the group then switch one person to the right and participants read the next few paragraphs.
  8. Participants repeat the process using their new roles. This process continues until participants read the entire article. Have the group debrief their process.

*adapted from Reading West*