



Four “A”s Text Protocol

Adapted from Judith Gray, Seattle, WA 2005.

Purpose

To explore a text deeply in light of one’s own values and intentions.

Roles

Facilitator/timekeeper (who also participates); participants.

Time

Five minutes total for each participant, plus ten minutes for the final two steps.

1. The group reads the text silently, highlighting it and writing notes in the margin on post-it notes in answer to the following four questions (you can also add your own “A”s).
 - 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 (or **Act** upon)?
2. In a round, have each person identify one assumption in the text, citing the text (with page numbers, if appropriate) as evidence.
3. Either continue in rounds or facilitate a conversation in which the group talks about the text in light of each of the remaining “A”s, taking them one at a time – what do people want to argue with, agree with, and aspire to (or act upon) in the text? Try to 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 students?
5. Debrief the text experience.