



National
School
Reform
Faculty

Harmony
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Center

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Tips for New Critical Friends Group Coaches

Developed in the field by educators affiliated with NSRF.

DO

- Keep alive the sense of what collaborative professional learning communities can do
- Get your principal strongly on the side of supporting CFG work
- Make every effort to carve out CFG meeting time during the school day
- Get to work early — probably by looking at student work
- Find a focus that your whole group owns
- Match the protocol to the work, not the work to the protocol
- Regularly ask the group for feedback

DON'T

- Set yourself up (or allow yourself to be set up) as The Expert
- Facilitate every protocol session yourself
- Spend any whole meeting on teambuilding
- Stay in everyone's comfort zone
- Allow your CFG to become alienated from the rest of the faculty