Constructivist Tuning Protocol

Developed in the field by educators affiliated with NSRF.

Conducting a Constructivist Tuning Protocol for Examining Student Work

1. Introduction
Facilitator briefly introduces protocol goals, norms, and agenda. (3 minutes)

2. Presentation
The presenter has 10 minutes to present the student's work to the participants. Place the work in context in regards to the course, the assignment, and the student. Be sure to present the "essential qualities" your students are working towards. Allow time for participants to assess the student's work. No interruptions or questions are allowed, just listening and note taking by the participants. (10 minutes)

3. Clarifying questions (3 minutes)

4. Reflection
Participants take a few minutes to review notes and to reflect on what feedback they can give that would be most helpful to the presenter. (5 minutes)

5. Warm Feedback
Participants share the evidence they found of the "essential qualities" present in the work. Presenter may only listen and take notes while participants talk. (5 minutes)

6. Cool Feedback
Participants share questions that arise addressing the lack of evidence of "essential qualities" in the student's work. Suggestions for constructive feedback to the student are appropriate. Presenter may only listen and take notes while participants talk. (5 minutes)

7. Review Feedback
Presenter takes a few minutes to review the feedback and to consider his/her response. (2-3 minutes)

8. Presenter's Response
Presenter responds to those comments and questions that he or she chooses to. Participants are silent. (5 minutes)

9. Debriefing
Talk about the process of tuning the presentation. What frustrations or positive reactions were experienced? What applications might there be for student peer or self-assessment? (5-10 minutes)