coaches struggle considerably remembering the name and how to spell it, and often have to think awhile to remember what it does and when to use it.)

2) Name the protocol which you are adapting or from which you're deriving your new protocol. For example, the Modified Collaborative Assessment Conference includes the attribution: "A variation of the Collaborative Assessment Conference developed by Steve Seidel."

3) Include your own name and/or your group's name on the new or adapted protocol. You never know where your protocol might end up once you've put it in writing, especially on the web. It can be helpful to let people know where it came from so that they can get in touch with you if they have questions about how to use it. At NSRF, we appreciate hearing stories and receiving copies of new or adapted protocols. Whenever possible, we like to share them with ***Connections*** readers, so this is an opportunity for you to be officially published.

4) Structure your protocol as follows, if possible: Include a statement of the purpose for the protocol and/or the goals it is intended to achieve, the estimated time to conduct the entire protocol, approximate time for each step, prerequisites/scaffolding, need for preconferencing, materials to gather, size of group for which the protocol is best suited, and any other details a new person would find helpful in using this protocol.

* Of course, a significant adaptation is a judgment call. If, for example, you're tinkering with the amount of time to allow for warm and cool feedback in the Tuning Protocol, you probably don't need to worry about renaming it. However, if you are altering the purpose of the protocol, moving the protocol's steps around, eliminating steps, or adding steps, those are typically the kind of changes that warrant giving the resulting protocol a new name.

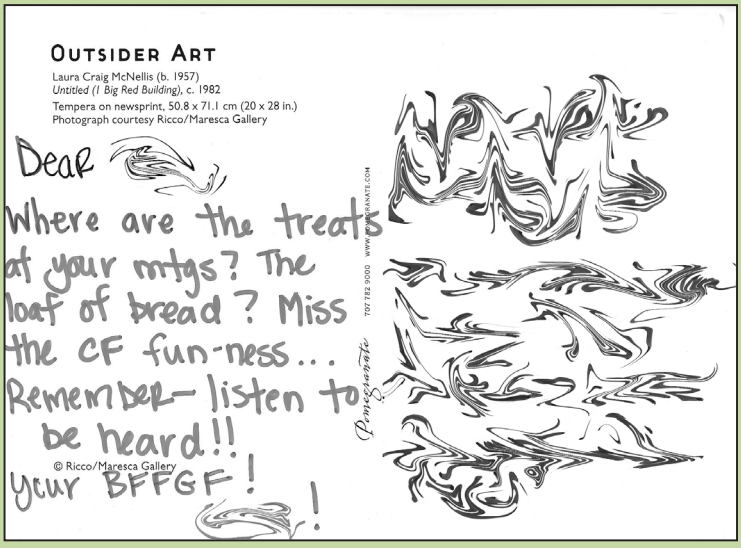
NSRF from time to time conducts on-site trainings for experienced coaches and is currently planning an open training designed around adapting and creating new protocols. If you are interested in joining or possibly hosting this group, please email or call us at 812-330-2702. — editors

Postcards from The Past

By Luci Englert McKean, Connections Managing Editor and CFG Coach in Indiana luci@nsrfharmony.org

At the end of many New Coaches Trainings, we use an activity we call "Postcards To The Future You." The facilitator spreads an assortment of postcards on a table, and once the attendees have written their final reflections for the week, they're invited to select a postcard for themselves. They're instructed to write in their home or work address on the right side of the card. Then on the left, they write their future selves a note ... something that they'd want to remember from the training, a quote, a reminder about a piece of work they or a colleague completed, or maybe a bit of cheerleading. At the end of the day, the facilitator brings or sends me the stack of postcards, and I magically select "a future time" to mail the postcards back to the people who wrote them.

Lucky me (and the letter carrier), we get to read people's notes to themselves, some of which baffle me, but others which make me smile. We thought we'd share some with you in this and future issues of ***Connections***, and maybe you can imagine a past self of your own, sending you a special message. At the July Open Training, one of our participants told us about a website called Future Me where you can write emails to yourself and schedule them to be sent days or even years later. Although emails aren't as pretty as picture postcards, they definitely can be valuable, as well. (Thanks for the tip, Patrick!)



Lewis Hine (1874–1940)
The Empire State Building Photographs, 1930–1931
An inspector on the job
Dear
Remember that you can trust the group to find their own direction + resolution. You saw it happen. We all really are better together.
Love,
OUTSIDER ART
Joseph Garlock (Russian, active in United States, 1884–1980)
Untitled, 1954
Oil on canvas, 55.9 x 58.4 cm (22 x 23 in.)
Lobell Collection
Photograph courtesy Ricco/Maresca Gallery
Be conscious of how you frame your ideas, suggestions, etc. It's both what you say and how you say it. Also, relax and breathe.
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HENCEFORWARD SHALL BE FREE
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
1 FOREVER USA
Elly Simmons (American, b. 1955)
Germination, 1992
Gouache, casein and collage, 30½ x 23¼ in.
Stay positive...
Make relationships...
Make changes.
Love,
Me
2914
© Elly Simmons
the ONION
Dear
Remember to use what you learned! Partner meetings, team meetings, administrator meetings — get started. And... well the main thing is to use it.
Yours,
PS; Protocols.
From Greetings from the Onion. 100 Postcards. Published by Chronicle Books.
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USA 32
ALOHA
Your name here
Your street address
Your city, state, and zip
Benjamin Franklin, based on an engraving published in Paris in
From the collections of Atwater Kent Museum, Philadelphia
2161 Pomegranate Communications, Inc.
Yo, J - look over your shoulder, see how far you've come & be patient as the world gets closer to your collaborative vision. Don't let the skeptics pull you away from your confidence in the process - remember when the process is followed & is transparent, one can't help but see the power of it. From the CF6 → we evolve.
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