

Criticizing "friends"

One popular and effective NSRF protocol is *Affinity Mapping*.   We've used it here and on the next page to demonstrate the difference between critics and Critical Friends Group collaborators.

For more information on the differences, consult the *Self-Guided Tour to CFG Work* or our *Frequently Asked Questions* page.

COMPLAIN,
COMPLAIN,
COMPLAIN

Compete

Sometimes
miss the
point

Tear me
down

Break
rules

Hurt,
anger,
shame or
guilt you

Tell me
EXACTLY
what
to do

Can
threaten

Sometimes
say "always"
and "never"

Complain
about
unrelated
things

and how,
where,
and
when, fool

BLAME
RATHER
THAN
HELP

Glass is
always "half
empty"

Pretend
to "help"

DOMINATE
CONVERSATION

Talk
behind our
backs

S.

Critical Friends Group

Trained in giving feedback skillfully

Addresses the work or dilemma, not me personally

Asks me questions to give me new perspective

Responds to my specific requests

Makes suggestions only when protocol calls for them

Helps explain confusing student work

I always learn from the work

SHARE MY GOALS

SHARES AIR TIME

Truly collaborates

Feels safe

Follows shared rules

Empower me to improve

Helps me want to keep this job!

Gives me a safe space monthly to get help and help others

Gives me new tools to use with students

LET'S US HEAR FROM THE 'QUIET ONES'

Connects me to everyone in the school

Gives insights into conflicts

Participate and maybe win a prize!

An upcoming issue of *Connections* will feature articles and another protocol visualization on the topic of "Technology use in schools." Please join us! Email luci@nsrffharmony.org with "the good, the bad, and the ugly" of tech use in your school. We'll award a year's membership to one lucky participant. If you'd like to write an article about technology (or another topic for a later issue), tell us. Authors we publish receive a membership.