

Facilitation Difficulty: 

 30-40 min. for  
a group of 15

 Can adapt timing  
for larger groups

 No preference

**Purpose** – To collaboratively construct meaning, clarify, and expand our thinking about a text or document. This protocol works especially well with shorter texts.

**Group size** – Can accommodate any size group by increasing time.

**Preparation** – Send the text or document to all participants in advance, and instruct them to mark the sentence, the phrase, and the word they think is particularly important for our work. Select a scribe for the group if you prefer not to scribe, and bring chart paper or appropriate technology for charting.

**Option** – If you have a text that is only one or two pages long, consider having the group read the text aloud. Ask for a volunteer to read the first paragraph, then go around the group, with each new person reading the next paragraph. Remind the group that everyone is free to pass if they prefer not to read. Once the text has been read, give the group a couple of minutes to mark the sentence, phrase, and word that is significant to them. Listening to a text provides a different kind of experience when extracting meaning. If you use this option, use the debrief to explore the difference between reading silently and listening to the text being read.

## Steps:

1. **Setup** – Review the protocol’s purpose with the group. Give them a couple of minutes to ensure they have a sentence, a phrase, and a word to share in rounds. Remind them that for this text protocol, they don’t need any “backups.” People make connections with others who have also chosen “their” sentence, phrase, or word. (3 min.)
2. **First Round, Share Sentence** – Each person shares a sentence from the document that they feel is particularly significant. (5 min.)
3. **Second Round, Share Phrase** – Each person shares a phrase from the document that they feel is particularly significant. If desired, the scribe records each phrase on chart paper/white board/onscreen for all. (5 min.)
4. **Third Round, Share Word** – Each person shares a single word from the document that they feel is particularly significant. The scribe records each word on fresh chart paper/white board/onscreen for all. (5 min.)
5. **Discuss** – The group discusses what they heard and what it says about the document. (10 min.)
6. **Debrief and reflect** – Discuss the process and the product of the protocol. (5 min)
  - *In what ways could you use the final list of words?*
  - *What ideas did not strike you as important in your private reading that feel much more important now after the text rendering protocol?*
  - *How do you feel about using this particular protocol compared with other text protocols?*
  - *Did some of the phrases or words seem to imply something different than the overall text or docu-*

*ment?*

- *Did this protocol feel more like teaching or training (pointing you towards a specific outcome) or more like facilitation (revealing the complex thoughts of the group)?*