Examples of Focusing Questions for Looking at Student Work Sessions

1. About the quality of student work
   - Is the work good enough?
   - What is “good enough”?
   - In what ways does this work meet or fail to meet a particular set of standards?

2. About teaching practice
   - What do the students’ responses indicate about the effectiveness of the prompt or assignment? How might the assignment be improved?
   - What kinds of instruction support high quality student performances?

3. About students’ understanding
   - What does this work tell us about how well the student understands the topic of the assignment?
   - What initial understandings do we see beginning to emerge in this work?

4. About students’ growth
   - How does this range of work from a single student demonstrate growth over time?
   - How can I support student growth more effectively?

5. About students’ intent
   - What issues or questions is this student focused on?
   - What aspects of the assignment intrigued this student?
   - Into which parts of the assignment did the student put the most effort?
   - To what extent is the student challenging him or herself? In what ways?

Protocols are most powerful and effective when used within an ongoing professional learning community such as a Critical Friends Group® and facilitated by a skilled coach. To learn more about professional learning communities and seminars for new or experienced coaches, please visit the National School Reform Faculty website at www.nsrfharmony.org.