Protocol 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.

Realms of Concern and Influence

Developed by Daniel Baron.

The purpose of this activity is to determine all of the things one is concerned about and which of those concerns one can have direct influence over.

Procedure
1. Draw three concentric circles of increasing size on a chalkboard or flipchart.

![Diagram of concentric circles illustrating Realms of Concern and Influence]

2. In the smallest, central circle youth place themselves. Ask them to imagine that their success lies outside all of the circles.

3. Ask participants to list all the things they are concerned about in their school or community. These “Realms of Concern” go into the outer ring. They should list EVERYTHING they are concerned about.

4. Ask participants to determine which issues from the outer ring they have influence over. These “Realms of Influence” go into the middle circle. Have them think critically about what they put in the Realm of Influence.

Possible Discussion Questions/Topics
- What do you see? What sticks out? What is significant to you?
- What is the difference between the “concerns” list and the “influence” list?
- What does this mean for our work?
- As you work to make changes in your Realm of Influence, the Realm of Influence gets larger. You begin to have more influence to affect change in your Realm of Concern.