



School Walk Protocol

Developed by Edorah Frazer and adapted from the Collaborative Assessment Conference developed by Steve Seidel

This protocol provides a means for visitors to a school to have a meaningful interchange with hosting educators about their observations of the school. It is based on the Collaborative Assessment Conference, a protocol for looking at student work that helps people observe carefully in a non-evaluative way. This protocol can help hosting educators harvest learning from their visitors and deepen the learning of the visitors themselves. The protocol can be used while school is in session or after school hours.

Time

About one hour

School Walk

Pair up in cross-school pairs and walk through the host school for 20-30 minutes. Make non-evaluative observations, avoiding qualitative judgments about what you see. As you walk, discuss the following questions:

- What do you see? What don't you see?
- What do you wonder about?
- What do you think this school is working on?

If you are a member of the school's faculty, don't give a tour, explain, apologize or show off. Look at your school and participate in the protocol with a beginner's mind.

Sharing Observations

Return to the large group and share your findings on the questions in sequence.

Host Reflections

People in the group who work in the school reflect aloud on what they heard that surprised and interested them and what they saw during their walk that was new.

Implications for Education

Discuss the implications of the observations for education.

Debriefing the Protocol

Debrief the protocol. Was it valuable? How could it have been better? How might this protocol be put to use in the future?