

Four A's Protocol: Creating Meaningful Dialogue

Purpose: This protocol is intended to raise a variety of perspectives about a topic, experience, or new learning. It is important to listen to understand and to look at the topic or learning from different points of view. This protocol can be used to respond to a reading, a lesson, a workshop, an experience, etc.

1. Take a few minutes to review your notes and to highlight some ideas that were interesting, challenging, and thought-provoking (2 minutes).
2. Select a facilitator for your table who will monitor time and move the conversation through the 4 A's (1 minute). As a team, decide if the facilitator will contribute or facilitate only.
3. As a table group, focus your conversation on what were the underlying **ASSUMPTIONS** of what you learned (10 minutes).
4. Move the conversation on to ideas that you **AGREE** with (10 minutes).
5. Shift the dialogue to ideas that you would **ARGUE** with (10 minutes).
6. Bring closure to your group's dialogue by identifying ideas from the reading that you would **ASPIRE TO APPLY** (10 minutes).

Norms for Dialogue

- Ensure that all voices are heard.
- Be respectful of diverse perspectives and points of view.
- Listen to understand.

Adapted from National School Reform Faculty
www.nsrffharmony.org