# Looking at Students’ Thinking Protocol

**Roles:**
- **Presenting Teacher:** Brings work to share, listens to the discussion, responds at the end.
- **Facilitator:** Keeps track of time, asks the lead questions for each phase, redirects as needed.
- **Documenter:** Records the group’s discussion.

## 1. Presenting the Work (5 minutes)

Presenting teacher provides the context, goals, and requirements of the task.
- Ask questions of clarification that will help you to understand and read the work.

## 2. Reading the Work (5 – 10 Minutes)

Read the work silently.
- Take notes for later comment.
- Categorize your notes to fit in with the stages of the protocol.

## 3. Describing the Work (5 Minutes)

What do you see?
- Raise one another’s awareness of all the features of the work
- Avoid interpretation and just point out what things can be seen

## 4. Speculating about Student’s Thinking (10 minutes)

Where in the work do you see thinking? What aspects of the work provide insights in students’ thinking?
- Interpret the features of the work
- Make connections to different types and ways of thinking

## 5. Asking Questions about the Work (10 minutes)

What questions does this work raise for you?
- Frame questions to get at broad issues as well as specifics.
- Ask the question behind the question. Rather than, “How long did this take?” ask, “This raises questions for me about the time needed to do this kind of work.”

**NOTE:** Presenting teacher does not respond to the questions at this point.

## 6. Discuss Implications for Teaching and Learning (10 minutes)

Where might this work go next to further extend and build on students’ thinking?
- Suggest practical possibilities and alternatives for the presenting teacher
- Raise general implications the work suggests for promoting students’ thinking.

## 7. Presenting Teacher Responds to the Discussion (5 minutes)

What have you as presenting teacher gained from listening to the discussion?
- Highlight for the group what you found interesting in the discussion
- Respond to those questions that you feel need addressing by you.
- Explain briefly where you think you might now go with the work.

## 8. Reflecting on the Protocol (5 minutes)

How did the process go and feel?
- Reflect general observations.
- Notice improvements and changes since the last time the group used the protocol.
- Make suggestions for next time.

## 9. Thanking the Presenting Teacher, the Documenter, and the Facilitator

The group to acknowledge everyone’s contribution
- Decide how the documentation will be shared, used, and archived for the group.
- Establish roles for the next meeting.

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