

Play the Role Protocol (50-55 minutes)

Purpose

Use Play the Role to give each participant in the group an opportunity to explore and gain a deeper understanding of an article. This protocol is best used with longer articles.

Process

1. Distribute “Literacy Group Roles” handout. **(2 minutes -includes #1)**
 - Discussion Director
 - Vocabulary Connector
 - Illuminator
 - Investigator
 - Connector
 - Summarizer
2. Have participants assemble into groups of 6.
3. Participants explore then select their group roles. **(5 minutes)**
4. Have participants read the assigned article. Ask them to take role-specific notes as they read to prepare for the discussion. **(20 minutes)**
5. Once participants have finished reading the article, have participants play their roles in the discussion. **(15 minutes -includes #6)**
6. The Discussion Director begins the discussion by highlighting the “big ideas” and following the “Checklist for Leading Your Group Discussion.” **(see back)**
7. The Summarizer highlights their discussion to the whole group. **(10 minutes)**
8. Debrief the process, if possible.

Checklist for Leading Your Group Discussion

Discussion Director: *It is your duty to lead your group in response to what each person says. Everyone must remember that this is a group discussion, not individual presentations.*

- ✓ Pose a couple of your questions and/or highlight the “big ideas” to your group for discussion. Ask for members of your group to state their comment/questions about this section of the text in relation to their role.
- ✓ Call on the Vocabulary Connector
- ✓ Call on the Illuminator
- ✓ Call on the Investigator
- ✓ Call on the Connector
- ✓ Call on the Summarizer

Follow-up by inviting and discussing comments/questions that may have come up during the discussion. If the conversation gets stale or off-topic, redirect by posing another one of your discussion points.

Ask the Summarizer to prepare highlights to share with the whole group.