

Four “A”s Text Protocol

The purpose of this structure is for the readers to experience an approximation of the close reading, text-dependent questioning, use of evidence, and discussion strategies that the Common Core requires. In this experience students will read a common text, annotate it, capture evidence and reflections on the recording form and discuss with their team.

PROCEDURE

1. The group reads the text silently, highlighting it and writing notes in the margin or on sticky notes to answer the following four questions (you can also add you own “A”s).
 - What **Assumptions** does the author of the text hold?
 - What do you **Agree** with in the text?
 - What do you want to **Argue** with in the text?
 - What parts of the text do you want to **Aspire** to (or **Act** upon)?
2. Using a RoundTable discussion, each group member will identify one assumption in the text, citing the text (with page numbers, if appropriate) as evidence.
3. Either continue in rounds or facilitate a conversation in which the group talks about the text in light of each of the remaining “A”s, taking them one at a time. What do they agree with, argue with, and aspire to (or act upon) in the text? Try to move seamlessly from one “A” to the next, giving each “A” enough time for full exploration.
4. End the session with an open discussion framed around a question such as: What does this mean for...?
5. Debrief the text experience.

Advantages

*Students are mentored to adopt a more reflective stance as they read.

*Students are encouraged to talk about things in the reading that they personally connect to.

*All students have equal opportunity (and expectation) to participate in a discussion on the reading.

NEPF Connections

Instructional Standards

S1.4
S2.1, S2.2, S2.3, S2.4
S3.1, S 3.2, S3.3, 3.4
S4.2, S4.3
S5.3

The Four “A” S

1. Read the text silently, highlighting/writing notes/post-it-notes etc. to the following four questions.
2. Can you think of an “A” to add?

What **Assumptions** does the _____ text hold?
 What do you **Agree** with in the text?
 What do you want to **Argue** with in the text?
 What parts of the text do you want to **Aspire** to (or **Act** upon)?

The Four “A”			
Assumption	Agree	Argue	Aspire (Act)

