**Save the Last Word for Me**

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| Adapted from a process developed by Patricia Avernette**Purpose:** To clarify and deepen our thinking about articles we read.**Process & Roles:** * All participants share the responsibility of timekeeping and facilitation to ensure everyone is able to fully participate.
* The process is designed to build on each other’s thinking, and not to enter into dialogue.
* Participants may decide to have an open dialogue about the article at the end of 30 minutes.
* Timing is important; each round should last approximately 7 minutes.

**The Protocol:**1. Create participant groups of 4.
2. Each participant silently identifies what s/he considers to be (for him or her) the most significant idea addressed in the article.
3. When the group is ready, a volunteer offers to be first, identifies for the group the part of the article that s/he found most significant, allows the group to read the passage and then reads the passage aloud to the group. The person (the presenter of the passage) says nothing about why s/he chose that particular passage.
4. Each participant is then given 1 minute to verbally reflect and respond to the passage. Comments may include things such as: “this passage makes me think about…, this passage raises these questions in my mind…, this passage seems important to me because…, this passage is relevant to me because….
5. After the 3 participants have been given their 1-minute opportunity to reflect and respond the “presenter” of the passage is given 3 minutes to state why s/he chose that part of the article and also build upon what s/he heard from his/her colleagues.
6. The same protocol is followed so each member of the four-person team is allowed one opportunity to be a “presenter” of his or her passage and to have the “Last Word”.
7. Optional open dialogue may occur after the protocol has been completed.
8. Debrief with a large group to explore how the ideas/concepts in the article could support further growth and development of the group.
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