

THE LAST WORD

Adapted by Jennifer Fischer-Mueller and Gene Thompson-Grove

Target

The aim of this project is to give each person in the group a chance to have their ideas, understanding and perspective reinforced by hearing from others. This group work allows the group to explore an article, clarify their thinking and challenge their assumptions and beliefs to gain a deeper understanding of the problem. Applied here for custom modules

Methodology

Provide circles of equal size so that all small groups finish at about the same time. (4-6 people per circle)

Sit in a circle and identify a **supervisor/timekeeper**.

Each person should have/prepare one main idea from the adaptation of an assignment/module phase, including discussions in that group. (individually review the assignment, write on a sheet the comments) 6 minutes

The first person starts by explaining (3minutes) what struck them the most.

For example, why was it so striking? What questions does he/she have about the experience/learning? What issues does it raise for him/her? What is he/she wondering now in relation to that idea/learning?

Continuing around the circle, each person responds briefly to that input and what the presenter said. (1 minute) The purpose of the response is: To expand on the presenter's thinking about learning and the problems it raises for him or her. To give a different perspective on the experience. To clarify the presenter's thinking about learning.

Questioning the presenter's assumptions on this and the issues raised (although there is **no response from the** presenter at the moment)

After each person has responded for less than a minute, the person who started has the '**last word**'. In no more than a minute, the presenter responds to what has been said. What is she/he thinking now? What is his/her reaction to what she/he has said?

Afterwards, the next person in the circle starts telling what struck him or her most. This process continues until everyone has had a round with their learning experience.

6. Finish by debriefing the process in your small group/ whole group. 8 minutes

