

Classroom Reflection & Debrief Protocols

Mid-Task Pivots & Low-Prep Debrief Routines

Structured protocols convert collaborative tasks into long-term skill development. Use these mid-task pivots to navigate active roadblocks, and leverage end-of-task routines to cultivate metacognition, team culture, and psychological safety.

Protocol 1: Team Wellness Check-In*

Purpose: A mid-way pause and check through a project or high-stakes task. **Time:** 3-5 minutes.

How It Works: Teams pause and assess their dynamic using a 3-tier stoplight:

- **Green:** All members are actively participating; roles and goals are clear.
- **Yellow:** Progress is happening, but airtime is uneven or one role is overburdened.
- **Red:** Group is stuck, experiencing conflict, or off-task.

Action: Yellow and Red groups choose a Sentence Stem from Page 62 to address the bottleneck before resuming.

*Available as Collaboration Tool 3

Protocol 2: Our Team is Off-Track—Now What?*

Purpose: Use when group conflict or lack of engagement threatens task completion. **Time:** 10 minutes.

How It Works: A 4-step reset routine designed to depersonalize conflict:

- **Pause & Name:** The team facilitator names the specific obstacle without assigning blame.
- **Air Perspectives:** Each member takes 30 uninterrupted seconds using Navigating Conflict stems.
- **Select One Compromise:** Agree on a single actionable change for the next 15 minutes.
- **Teacher Confirmation:** Signal the teacher to share the reset plan before continuing.

*Available as Self Direction Tool 3 and Collaboration Tool 3

Protocol 3: The 3 A's Shout-Out

Purpose: A quick, low-stakes closing circle where students take turns offering one of three prompts. **Time:** 5-10 minutes.

- **Appreciation:** Recognize a team member who helped or supported your learning today.
- **Apology:** Acknowledge an interruption, off-track moment, or misstep during group work.
- **Aha!:** Share a lightbulb moment or key insight gained during the activity.

Protocol 4: Peaks & Valleys Circle

Purpose: Builds psychological safety and collective problem-solving across two distinct rounds. **Time:** 10 minutes.

- **Valleys Round:** Students share a frustration or obstacle encountered during the task. Rule: Peers listen without interrupting or offering unsolicited advice—responding only with "Thank you for sharing".
- **Peaks Round:** A mandatory positive closing round where every student shares a success or highlights a team member's contribution.