

## Reconnections Protocol

We want to provide an opportunity for you to reflect on and reconnect to PLC work in our Institute. Think for a moment about the past 6 or so weeks since the school year began, and our first PLC Institute this summer. In this protocol you will do some writing and sharing with a colleague in a dyad.

Part 1: Writing: Please take the next 5-7 minutes to write in your journal on **one** of the three prompts below. You have **a choice** about what you would like to write about:

**Choice One**

- Have you had an opportunity to use anything that you learned from the Institute?
- If so what? How did it work out? What questions or ah-ha moment (s) did it leave you with?

Or

**Choice Two**

- What is one success and one challenge you experienced at school/in the classroom/with a colleague since the last time we met?

Or

**Choice Three**

- What is one success and one challenge that your school had/faced since the last time we met?

Part 2: Constructivist listening through the Dyad:

Explanation: The simplest format for constructivist listening is a **dyad**, which is the exchange of constructivist listening between two people.... I agree to listen to and think about you for a fixed period of time in exchange for you doing the same for me. I keep in my mind that my listening is for your benefit so I do not ask questions for my information.

Start with two minutes — at first it may seem difficult. But participants, over the course of time, may work their way up to 5-8 minutes and more each. *Remind participants that the purpose of a constructivist listening dyad is that the listening is for the benefit of the talker.* This is an essential point to access the usefulness and power of a constructivist listening dyad.

**Guidelines for Constructivist Listening:**

- 1) Each person is given equal time to talk. (Everyone deserves to be listened to.)
- 2) The listener does not interpret, paraphrase, analyze, give advice or break in with a personal story. (People can solve their own problems.)
- 3) Confidentiality is maintained. (People need to know they can be completely authentic.)
- 4) The talker does not criticize or complain about a listener(s) or about mutual colleagues during their time to talk. (A person cannot listen well when she/he is feeling attacked or defensive.)

**The Activity:**

1. Each person will have three minutes to share what they chose to write about.
2. Each person will have three minutes to share what they are thinking about what they wrote.