

Knowles Teacher Initiative: A Data Analysis Protocol For Analyzing Your System Using Activity System Framework (ASF)

One benefit of [collaborative inquiry](#) is the opportunity to learn with and from colleagues. Hearing others' perspectives, understanding how they interpret that data, and considering ideas we might not generate on our own can broaden our awareness of what is happening and what might be possible.

The ASF data analysis protocol below is designed for small groups (three to four Critical Friends is ideal) to collaboratively analyze a shared data set. Using the [Activity System Framework](#), participants examine the elements of a system and how they interact and consider possible next steps to deepen their understanding or inform action.

Before engaging in this protocol, participants should be familiar with the [Activity System Framework](#). Presenters should select and organize the data in advance. For support in identifying a focusing question and selecting appropriate data, please refer to [Preparing for Looking at Work, A Reflective Guide](#).

This experience is designed to take approximately 40 minutes. However, groups are encouraged to adapt the timing to fit their goals.

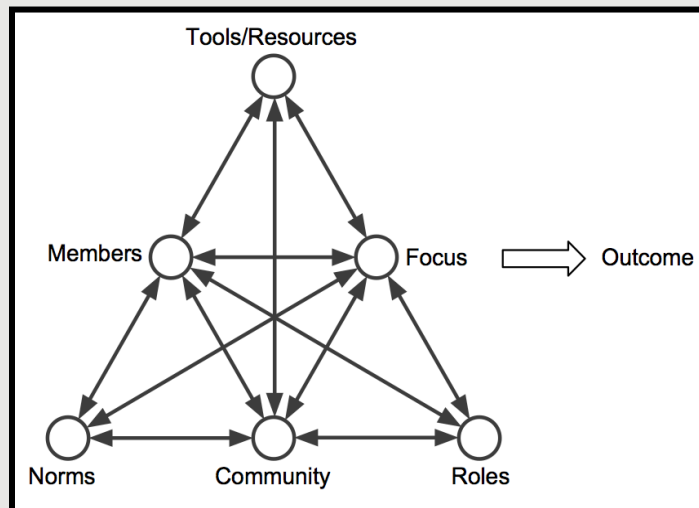
ASF Data Analysis Protocol (40 min total)	
Getting Started	
10 min	<p>1 min: The Presenter provides a brief introduction to share context for the data and a focusing question that will guide the group's conversation. The focusing question should get at the heart of what the presenter wants to know or understand. Examples: What does my data suggest about how this system is functioning? How does this system support or constrain teacher/student learning?</p> <p>5 min: Critical Friends individually and silently review the data.</p> <p>4 min: Critical Friends ask the Presenter clarifying questions to better understand the data. These questions focus on factual details and context and are not intended to prompt deeper interpretation or analysis of the situation</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> Notes: </div>

Describing the Data

5 min

Critical Friends offer non-evaluative observations, describing what they notice across different elements of the [Activity System Framework](#). They should not only describe the elements of the system but also the interactions between the elements. They are careful not to provide any judgements or interpretations but if these do arise, the group should ask the person to describe the evidence on which the interpretation is based.

The presenter quietly listens to the conversation and takes notes below.



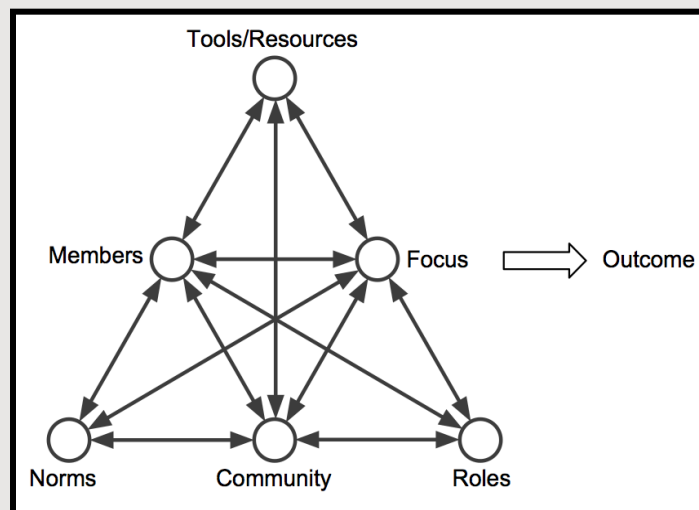
Record your notes below:

Members	
Community	
Focus	
Roles	
Tools & Resources	
Norms	
Outcome	

Interpreting the Data

10 min Referring to the ASF, **Critical Friends discuss their interpretations and assumptions about any element (or interaction between elements) of the system.** During this time, the Critical Friends try to make sense of what the data says and why. They should find as many different interpretations as possible and evaluate them against the evidence. As they listen to one another's interpretations, they should ask questions to better understand the interpretations being shared.

The presenter quietly listens to the conversation and takes notes below.



Record your notes below:

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Speculate on Next Steps

10 min **Critical Friends discuss the implications and next steps the presenter could take to better understand a particular aspect of their system or to take some action in the system.** The goal is to brainstorm ideas on what the Presenter could do next. It may be helpful to refer back to the focusing

	<p>question to ground the conversation in what the presenter wants to know or do.</p> <p>The presenter quietly listens to the conversation and takes notes below.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;"> <p>Notes:</p> </div>
<p>Reflection</p>	
<p>5 min</p>	<p>The presenter reflects on what they learned from the conversation, including new perspectives and anything that was interesting or surprising. Presenters sometimes feel compelled to respond to every idea. However, this reflection is not meant to acknowledge every contribution, but to surface the ideas that most influenced the Presenter’s thinking.</p> <p>Critical Friends listen.</p>