

# FOUR “A”S TEXT PROTOCOL

NAME:

TOPIC:

## Purpose

To explore a text deeply in light of one’s own values and intentions.

## Roles

Facilitator/timekeeper (who also participates); participants.

## Time

Five minutes total for each participant, plus 10 minutes for the final 2 steps.

## Process

1. Introduce the four “A”s listed below.
2. The group reads the text silently, highlighting it and writing notes in the margin or on sticky notes in answer to the following 4 questions.
3. Either continue in rounds or facilitate a conversation in which the group talks about the text in light of each of the remaining “A”s, taking them one at a time. What do people want to agree with, argue with, and aspire to (or act upon) in the text? Try to move seamlessly from one “A” to the next, giving each “A” enough time for full exploration.
4. End the session with an open discussion framed around a question such as: What does this mean for our work with students?
5. Debrief the text experience

## The four “A”s

1. What **A**ssumptions does the author of the text hold?
2. What do you **A**gree with in the text?
3. What do you want to **A**rgue with in the text?
4. What parts of the text do you want to **A**spire to (or Act upon)?

