

Research Folders: From Frenzy to Focus

This is a group process that will start with a “frenzy” of looking through articles and arrives at each member of the group selecting a focus article. This protocol can be used to give members of a group exposure to a variety of articles with a particular research focus. (Note: This protocol takes approximately 45 minutes.)

Step 1: Get in to groups of 4. (1 minute)

Step 2: Select a time keeper, who will manage the time of the group. Select a process facilitator who will keep the group on track through the steps. (1 minute)

Step 3: You will now “frenzy” through the articles. The idea is to expose yourself to the content of many of the articles in a bit of a “frenzy.” You can peruse the content of the articles. You should pass articles around in the group. This is a rather unstructured process. You may look at an article and abandon it. You may get deeply into one article, but remember that this portion of the process is about exposure to the articles not reading deeply. (7 minutes)

Step 4: Group has a brief discussion about the articles and each member of the group selects one of the articles to read more deeply. Group reaches consensus to ensure that each member of the group has a different focus article. (3 minutes)

Step 5: Locate the Focused Article Reading Notecatcher. Each member of the group reads his or her article independently and takes notes on the notecatcher. (17 minutes)

Step 6: The process facilitator will guide a group discussion about the content of the articles ensuring that each member of the group shares about his/her article for approximately 3 minutes. Other members of the group should take notes about the content of the articles and/or ask thoughtful questions. (12 minutes)

Step 7: Debrief this process. How was this process helpful to you as a learner? Is there a way that you can use this process in your school or district? How would you modify this process? (3 minutes)