

## Handout 3.2

# Sample PLC Assignment: Student-Focused Discussions Task

When we last met, the consensus of the group seemed to be that we needed a more concrete plan to facilitate productive, student-focused discussions in our classrooms, as opposed to teacher-directed discussions. In response, we are asking each PLC to create an implementation plan for trying out a student-focused discussion in each classroom. You will work together to plan a similar lesson and then share data about your experiences. Please use the following guidelines to create your plan. Each PLC will turn in one plan at the end of the session.

*Step 1. Decide on the lesson content.* Brainstorm similar lesson content (a topic, activity, or strand, for instance) that each PLC member will implement sometime during the next two weeks. For example, social studies teachers could focus on current events, language arts or math teachers could look at sample constructed responses from accountability tests, and science teachers could develop a lesson for experiments. Then make a final choice.

Our PLC will facilitate student-focused discussions on the following:

*Step 2. Decide how student-focused discussions best fit into the lesson.* Would the lesson work best with an all-class discussion? Small groups? A fishbowl? Any of the other techniques we have talked about or you have learned about elsewhere? Reach a conclusion about how all of you will facilitate the discussion.

Our PLC will use the following discussion strategy:

*Step 3. Decide on the data you might record for the lesson.* Consider what data will be useful for your PLC discussion about this common experience: student engagement rate, work completion rate, or types of specific comments from students (levels of questions, elaboration, accuracy)? Think about how students could reflect on the situation and give you feedback as well.

Each member of our PLC will gather the following data for our discussion:

*Note: Each PLC member will bring the data from his or her experience to our meeting scheduled for two weeks from now, along with a written reflection on what went well, what was challenging, and what your next step might be.*