



Why Activity

Developed in the field by educators.

Presentation: (5 minutes)

The presenter describes an issue related to his or her school's lack of focus. It could be...

- the competition between two initiatives.
- the balancing act in which teachers must engage.
- a decision which undermined good work that was in place.

Clarifying Questions (3 minutes)

The group asks clarifying questions. These are questions which clarify the context of the presenter's remarks. They should be specific questions which can be answered with brief statements. For example, "How long has your school been using a block schedule?"

Decision (3 minutes)

The group discusses the best line of inquiry and decides upon the initial "why question." The presenter is silent.

The "Why Questioning" (10 minutes)

The "why question" decided upon is asked and the presenter responds. Another "why question" is asked in response to the presenter's answer. This continues with a maximum of five "why questions" being asked.

Discussion (5 minutes)

The group then discusses what they have heard the presenter say. Their discussion is not a solving of a problem but an attempt to help the presenter understand the underlying causes for the issue he or she described. The presenter is silent.

Response (3 minutes)

The presenter responds to what has been said. The group is silent.

Debrief (3 minutes)

The group and the presenter debrief the experience.