

Consultancy Protocol

Short Form

Time: Approximately 1/2 hour

Roles: Presenter(s) (whose work is being discussed by the group)
Facilitator (who also participates)
Participants

1. The presenters give a quick overview of their work. They might highlight major issues or problems with which they are struggling (3-5 minutes)
2. The group asks clarifying questions of the presenters. (3-5 minutes)
3. The group then asks probing questions of the presenters--these questions should be worded so that they help the presenters clarify and expand their thinking about the issues. The goal here is for the presenters to learn more about their thinking and the work/issues they have presented. The presenters respond to the questions, but there is no discussion of their responses by the larger group; the group simply continues asking questions. (5-10 minutes)
4. The group then talks with each other about the work and issues presented. What did you hear? What didn't you hear that you needed to know more about? What do you think about the issues? The conversation should be about both the strengths and the gaps (warm and cool feedback). The presenters are not allowed to speak during this discussion, but instead listen and take notes. (5-10 minutes)
5. The presenters then respond to the discussion (first in a fishbowl if they prefer), followed by a whole group discussion. (5 minutes)
6. The facilitator leads a brief conversation about the group's observations of the process. (5 minutes)