

# Making Sense of Student Work

A Lens into student thinking

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# Making Sense of Student Work

A WestEd designed protocols that provides the framework to help teachers :

- Have evidence- based discussions about student's work and student's thinking
- Examine and come to understand student's idea and the logic behind these ideas.
- Strengthen their abilities to make instructional choices in response to the specific ways students are thinking
- Analyze and improve the formative assessment tasks they use with students.

# Protocol A: Mental Models

Individually complete the student task with adult responsiveness

1. Create a model of the Earth using the egg drawing
2. Answer the 2 questions

# Mental Models

What I noticed about how I approached the task....

If students correctly completed this task, what would we know about the content they understood?

# Mental Models

Individually read and sort student work

Sort the student work into piles according to groups of students who have similar thinking

# Mental Models

Discuss which students have similar mental models?

Which ideas do most students seem to understand?

What are some points of confusion?

Based on how students completed the task, what misconceptions (if any) do you think they may have? What is your evidence?

# Protocol B: Learning Gaps

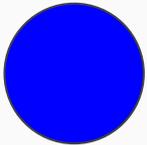
A learning gap is what stands in the way of individual students reaching proficiency in their understanding. A learning gap describes something a student can't do yet or doesn't yet know, but if the student could do it or did know it, his/her response would be correct or complete.

# Learning Gaps

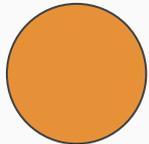
Marking student work



Correct thinking



Questions I have for this student



Misconceptions

# Protocol C: Next steps

Next steps is designed to help us:

- Recognize what students are missing that contribute to errors or limitations in their thinking.
- Identify learning gaps between student's actual performance and a correct and complete understanding
- Make decisions about instructional next steps for an individual student based on his/her ideas and understanding
- Weigh tradeoff of various instructional next steps.

# Next Step:

Choose 1 student

Identify his or her learning gap

List possible next steps for this student- Go Crazy! Have fun!

Think about what this would look like in your classroom

What would you say/do?

What would the student do?

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We can contract with your school/district to train staff using Making Sense of Student Work