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# The Golden Line and Last Word Protocols for Discussing a Text

## Team Tool 6.20 from *Leading for Literacy*

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### Purpose

These protocols prime engaged reading. Each reader is expected to react to a text, not simply swallow it.

### Golden Line Procedure

1. Explain the directions:
  - Read silently and Talk to the Text.
  - Pay particular attention to these places in the text:
    - Where the text raises questions for you
    - Where it confirms what you already believe
    - Where it makes you say aha
    - Where it conflicts with your beliefs
    - Where it causes you to reconsider prior assumptions
  - Choose two different “golden lines” that you want to share with the team. (You will only share one, but two gives you a choice, depending on what other team members may have already offered.)
2. After the reading, explain how team members will share their lines:
  - Read aloud your golden line.
  - Direct team members to its exact location in the text, and explain why you chose that line, its significance to you.
  - Do not accept comments or questions at this time.
  - Take no more than one minute.
3. Facilitate discussion of team members’ selections and thinking.
4. Consider how this protocol might be used with students.

### Last Word Variation

Team members explain the significance of their golden line only after other team members have discussed their own responses to the line. Each nominator of a golden line has the last word.