The Golden Line and Last Word Protocols for Discussing a Text

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.