

## Responding to Writing

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**Here is a protocol that you might consider using in order to get useful responses to your 50-word grant proposal project summaries, grant drafts, and other kinds of writing.**

Format: Form groups of three w/one serving as time-keeper to divide the available time equally. One writer reads a draft, and the other two respond with something like this sequence (or as far as you get in the time you have).

1. No Responding: Sharing

Just read your words out loud; see what they sound like. You probably learn more from *the act of reading in the presence of listeners* than from any kind of feedback.

2. Pointing

Ask readers: “Which words or phrases stick in your mind? Which phrases or features did you like best? Don’t explain why.”

3. Sayback

Ask readers: “Say back to me in your own words what you hear me getting at in my writing.”

4. Summarizing

Ask: “What do you hear as my main point of idea (or event or feeling)?

5. What’s almost said or implied

Ask readers: “What *almost* said, implied, hovering around the edges? What would you like to hear more about?

6. Center of Gravity

Ask readers: “What do you sense as the source of energy, the focal point, the seedbed, the generative center for this piece?”

7. After hearing your piece, these are questions I have ....

8. If this were part 1 of your essay, what might be included in part 2...?

9. Return to the large group: process writing about what we learned from response....

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