# Three Levels of Text Protocol

*Adapted by the Southern Maine Partnership from Camilla Greene's Rule of 3 Protocol, November, 2003.*

**Purpose**
This protocol is designed to deepen the understanding of a text and explore implications for participants' work. It asks participants to respond to 3 levels of the text: literal (level 1), interpretation (level 2), and implications (level 3)

**Facilitation**
Stick to the time limits. Each round takes up to 5 minutes per person in a group. Emphasize the need to watch air time during the brief group response segment. Do 1-3 rounds. Can be used as a prelude to a text-based discussion or by itself.

**Roles**
Facilitator/timekeeper (who also participates); participants

**Process**
1. Sit in a circle and identify a facilitator/timekeeper.

2. If participants have not done so ahead of time, have them read the text and identify passages that they feel may have important implications for their work.

3. Do 1-3 rounds. A round consists of:
   - One person using up to 3 minutes to:
     Level 1: Read aloud the passage she/he has selected
     Level 2: Say what she/he thinks about the passage (interpretation, connection to past experiences, etc.)
     Level 3: Say what she/he sees as the implications for her/his work.
   - The group responding (for a **total** of up to 2 minutes) to what has been said.

4. After all rounds have been completed, debrief the process.

Protocols are most powerful and effective when used within an ongoing professional learning community and facilitated by a skilled facilitator. To learn more about professional learning communities and seminars for facilitation, please visit the School Reform Initiative website at www.schoolreforminitiative.org.