

## **The Final Word**

*(Exercise courtesy of Patricia Averette of the Los Angeles Annenberg Metropolitan Project and Daniel Baron of Harmony School, Bloomington, Indiana)*

The Final Word can be used to expand a group's understanding of a text in a focused way and in a limited amount of time.

Each person selects and marks what is for him or her one significant quote or section from the text(s).

Participants work in groups of four, with a designated timekeeper/facilitator for each of the four rounds.

For Each Round: 4 Rounds Of 15 Minutes Each

- The person who starts gets 4 minutes.
- Each person responding gets 3 minutes (3 people = 9 minutes).
- The person who started has the FINAL WORD – 2 minutes

*Explanation of procedure for each round:*

1. Begin by designating a facilitator/timekeeper. These roles should not be filled by the person who will begin the round (and who has the FINAL WORD).
2. One person begins by explaining the significance of her or his quote/selection from the text(s) to the group. (4 minutes)
3. After this person is finished, each person then comments on the same quote/section as the one the first person in the round chose. You may choose to respond to what the first person has said, OR to speak to the quote or section in any other way that extends the group's understanding of the text. Each person in the group has 3 minutes to respond, for a total of 9 minutes.
4. The person who started, then has the FINAL WORD. (2 minutes) ROUND TWO then begins, with the next person explaining the significance of her or his quote/selection from the text(s) to the group. Rounds two, three, and four follow the same format as round one.