PROTOCOL - LOOKING AT STUDENTS’ CURRENT THINKING AND SURFACING GAPS
Lead Question
What are the gaps between what students know and are able to do and the expectations of the CCLS?
Materials  Student Work Sample  CCSS
Facilitation Notes
1. Introduce the Activity.
In this activity, teacher teams will bring a variety of student work and use the adapted Looking at Students’ Thinking protocol
to examine what the student work reveals about student thinking. Then, the teams will examine the relevant Common Core
standards to identify areas of alignment and to surface gaps. Finally, the teams will discuss the implications for teacher
planning and preparation.
2. Review and Engage in the Protocol: Looking at Students’ Thinking.
Step 1: Presenting teacher describes the task to team and distributes a copy of the assignment as well as samples of student
work.
Step 2: Teachers review the task and student work.
Step 3: Teacher teams describe the work, recording low-inference observations, and then discuss.
Step 4: Speculate about students’ thinking. Consider questions like: What did the instructional task and student work reveal
about student thinking? Where in the work do you see insights into students’ thinking? How are they making sense of ideas,
putting information together, organizing thoughts, and reasoning?
3. Surface Gaps.
Examine the relevant Common Core

Recording Chart

Current Student Thinking Desired Student Thinking or

Gaps between Current and Desired

Implications for Teacher

Planning and Preparat ion

This work reveals that the student…

Students need to develop…

Plan for more explicit focus on…