

## 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.