



Students engaged in inquiry are in continuous decision-making mode – determining what to do next & think next. There’s no need for them to do so alone! **Troika** provides a way for teams of 3 to share, shoulder, and address one another’s challenges.

The discursive moves it allows and inhibits develop 2 essential yet rarely emphasized skills:

- Listening – carefully, thoughtfully, humbly – for a sustained period of time
- Lending one’s best wisdom, skills, and energies to another – to the community – to help

**MISSING
TEXT**

HOW IT WORKS

(approximate time: 30 minutes)

1. Students have 3-5 minutes to identify the most pressing challenging in their work at the moment. This can include things they are struggling to do and things they are struggling to understand.
2. Students form groups of 3 and sit knee-to-knee and number themselves 1, 2, and 3.
3. Person 1 starts by sharing their dilemma; 2 & 3 ask questions to clarify if needed.
4. Person 1 turns their back to 2 & 3, who shift their positions to face one another directly.
5. For 3-5 minutes, 2 & 3 “dig in” to 1’s problem, considering as many relevant details & possible solutions as they can.
6. As they do, 1 records ideas that stand out as significant and promising. They may not speak or turn around during this time!
7. 1 turns to face 2 & 3 and:
 - Expresses thanks
 - Shares how they think they can / will proceed, integrating key suggestions and contributions of peers
 2 & 3 listen, encourage, and pose clarifying questions.
8. Switch—2 now shares their problem; 1 & 3 shoulder it.
9. Switch—3 now shares their problem; 2 & 3 shoulder it.

Closing Options

- Facilitator can ask each group to share a discovery or breakthrough that occurred.
- Facilitator can ask students to complete and submit individual reflections; this reflection can serve as as formative assessment tool, informing responsive instruction.

(adapted from Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit Strategy Cards)