



PDSA REFLECTION GUIDE

Moving from Act to Plan

This guide is intended to help you use learning about a change idea that emerges in the Study step of a PDSA cycle to identify a next action to take with that change. The prompts below offer considerations to guide you in determining a focus for a next cycle of testing, preparing you to continue to advance your learning through disciplined inquiry.

REFLECT

Briefly summarize what you tested and what happened. Any surprises?

How did your predictions compare to your results? What do you think that means? What did you learn?

Based on your learning, will you Adapt, Adopt, or Abandon this change – or will you need to test again?

EVALUATE

Using the prompts below, reflect on your learning to identify a next step.

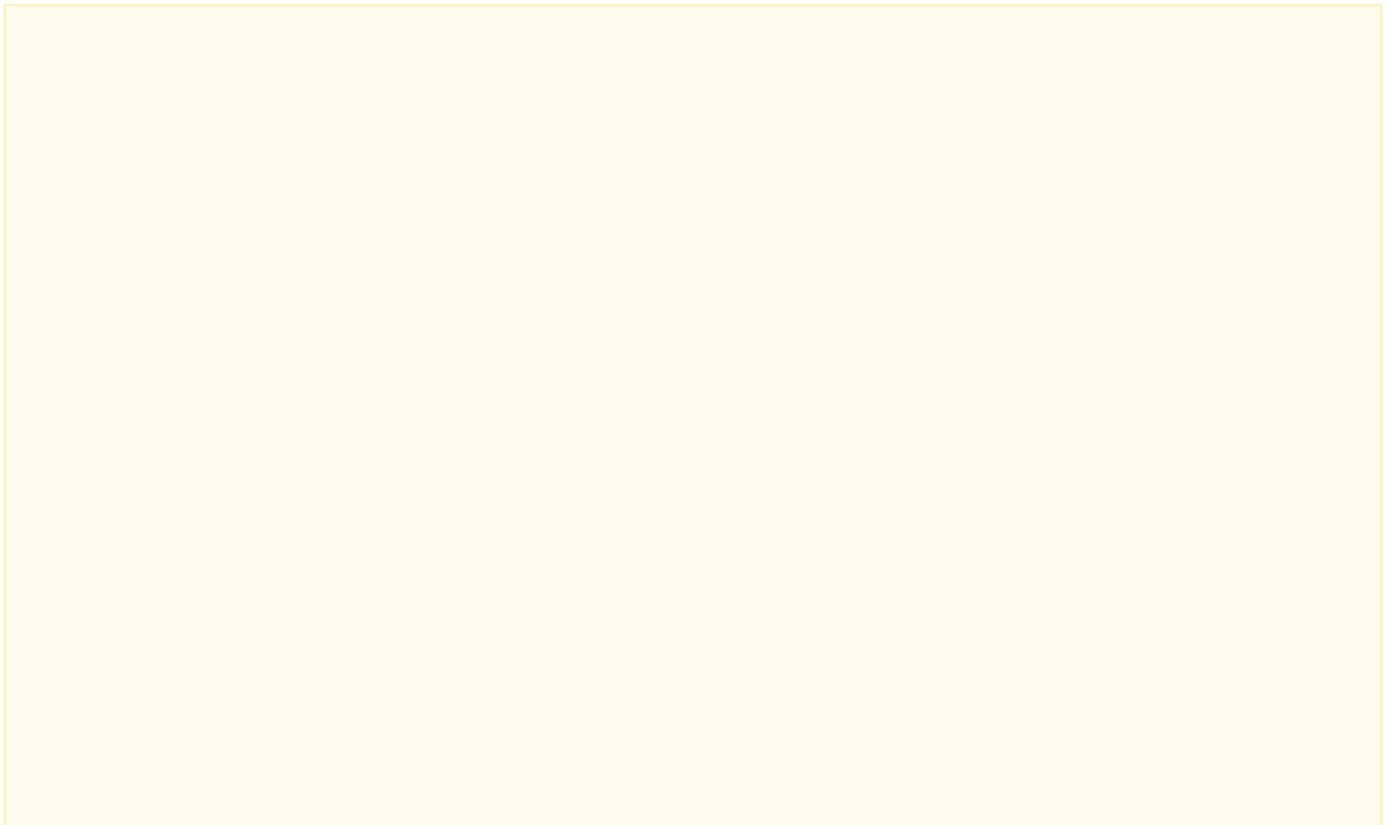
If you've seen partial success and are **Adapting**, what are you trying to accomplish with your adaptation?

- Do you need to **troubleshoot**? *If the change is working with some groups or in some situations but not others, for example, how can you modify the practice to be more effective? What small adjustment can you make for the focus of your next test?*
- Do you need to **optimize**? *If the change is generally working well, how might you refine it to be more efficient or effective, while still working at a small scale?*
- Do you need to continue to **learn about the change**? *It may be helpful to continue to learn with an open mind, in particular if the practice is new to you. Seek to understand how the change works in practice to be better equipped to refine it in future tests.*

If you are **Adopting**, is there a new context for testing and learning about the change? Or is there a next change to test?

If you are **Abandoning**, consider what you learned about the change or the system from the failure of this test. How would you revise your theory?

Jot down your initial thoughts about your next steps. Will you Adapt and optimize, troubleshoot, or continue to learn? Will you Adopt or Abandon?



DECIDE

Determine your next steps based on your responses above and/or feedback from others.

What will you try for your next test? What elements of the change are worth keeping, and what might need modification?