

# Micro Lab Protocol

*This routine is designed to insure that all persons in small groups have an opportunity to share and participate.*

*This can be a good routine for discussing ideas on which there may be differences of opinion or a search for creative ideas for a project. Regular use of this routine helps the students to become better listeners and learn how to make connections with others' ideas.*

## How to Use the Strategy:

1. **Set Up.** Inform student of the topic they will discuss and what you are hoping they will get out of other discussion. Depending on the material, decide how long you want ot give them to reflect (either in writing or mentally), usually about 5-10 minutes. Explain the procedure, purpose and guidelines of the protocol. Form groups of three and assign who goes first.
2. **Share.** Announce that number one's will go first and will share for the set amount of time (102 min.). No one talks except the speaker. Other members listen attentively and may take notes. Call time by ringing a bell or chime and call the groups to be silent.
3. **Call for Silence.** Allow 20-30 seconds for silence for everyone to take in what was heard. This time will help them to review hat was said by the speaker.
4. **Do Rounds 2 and 3.** Repeat steps 2 and 3 for each member of the group. If a member finishes before the time, the group should reflect silently.
5. **Commence Discussion.** When the timed rounds are over, announce that groups should have an open discussion (length of time should be predetermined). Encourage groups to make connections between what was said or ask questions to clarify a position.
6. **Share the Thinking.** As a whole group, have the students share/reflect on the protocol and the topic.