

The Micro Lab Protocol

1. **Group up:** Students are put into groups of 2-5. In each group, students should number off.
2. **Share:** The number ones in the group share for a set time. One to two minutes seems to work best. While that person is sharing, everyone else in the group is listening quietly, without commenting or interrupting.
 - a. If a student has something to say, you can have them write it down and save it for the discussion portion of the Micro Lab.
3. **Pause** for 15-30 seconds of silence to take in what was said and to recenter.
4. **Repeat** for the other members of the group.
5. **Discuss** as a group (5-10 minutes), referencing the comments that have been made, asking questions for clarification, and making connections between the responses of the group.

Tips:

- Make sure you spend time going over the rules of the Micro Lab Protocol before hand, even if they've done it before. It helps to reinforce that when it's not your turn to speak, you are *listening attentively!*
- We have found that the first few times you do the Micro Lab, it helps to keep the times short, until you and the students have had a chance to get used to it.
- If a student finishes quickly (there's one in every group!!), the students are to move to the the Pause stage and reflect quietly.
- It helps to reinforce that the purpose of pausing isn't just to be quiet; it's to take in what was said, jot down any questions or connections they can make, and to recenter.
- You could even finish the Micro Lab with another visual thinking technique, such as "I used to think...Now I think..." as a way of debriefing and collecting evidence of how this Micro Lab worked. Or, have students post their thoughts on a post-it to be collected at the end of class or a blog.