

## Paired-Verbal-Fluency

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Paired-Verbal-Fluency is a dialogue strategy used to engage students in an active verbal discussion. It can be used to review or summarize information or concepts previously learned or access prior knowledge or thinking about a concept or topic of study. The strategy allows students to construct their own learning and listen to the ideas of others.

To access prior knowledge, the amount of time should increase from round to round. For example, the time would increase from 15 seconds in Round 1, to 30 seconds in Round 2, to 45 seconds in Round 3. As students' prior knowledge is accessed, they are able to remember more and make more connections, so the longer span of time as they move from round to round is needed.

To summarize learning, the amount of time should decrease from round to round. For example, the time would decrease from 60 seconds in Round 1, to 30 seconds in Round 2, to 15 seconds in Round 3. As students' summarize their learning, they have less and less to say because the information has already been shared by them or their partner.

### How to implement the strategy (Summarizing):

1. Establish partners randomly or assign students to partner with another student.
2. Have each pair determine who will be "Partner A" and who will be "Partner B."
3. Explain to the students that there will be three rounds of different lengths of time (Round One: 60 seconds, Round Two: 45 seconds, and Round Three: 15 seconds).
4. Tell students that when the teacher says "Go!" Partner A will begin Round One by talking about the topic until the teacher says, "Switch!" Partner B will talk about the topic, being careful not to repeat anything Partner A said until the teacher says, "Switch" again.
5. Explain that they will continue to talk and switch each time they hear the signal until the time ends.
6. Remind the pairs that they need to listen closely to what is being said because during each round because they cannot repeat anything that has been said by their partner when it's their turn to share.
7. Begin Round one by saying "Go!" and Partner A talks for 60 seconds while Partner B listens but does not speak.
8. Watch the timer and say "Switch!" after 60 seconds and Partner B talks for 60 seconds while Partner A listens but does not speak.
9. Begin Round Two by saying "Switch" and A talks for 45 seconds and Partner B listens but does not speak.
10. Watch the timer and say "Switch" and Partner B talks for 45 seconds and Partner A listens but does not speak.
11. Begin Round Three by saying "Switch" and A talks for 15 seconds while Partner B listens but does not speak.

12. Watch the timer and say “Switch” and Partner B talks for 15 seconds while Partner A listens but does not speak.
13. Have students thank their partners and take their seats.
14. Have students return to their seats and record any important information or key points they want to remember from the exchange with their partner in their notebooks.

**Adapted from:**

- Lipton, L. & Wellman, B. (2004). *Pathways to Understanding: Patterns & Practices in the Learning-Focused Classroom, 3rd Ed.* Sherman CT. MiraVia, LLC.