You may have begun implementing Think-Pair-Share, but notice that one student often dominates the conversation so that others do not get a chance to share. Enter “Timed-Pair-Share”. Whether it is a CTE procedural discussion, ABE/ASE evidence share or ESL skill practice, by timing the sharing, teachers ensure that there is equal participation and opportunity to learn.

Below is a Timed-Pair-Share Planning Guide:

1. Decide on the question.
2. Determine how much time each student will get to answer the question.
4. Decide which student speaks first, A or B.
5. First student shares (watch time).
6. Second student responds positively. (ex. “Good idea!” or “I like the way you…”)  
7. Second student shares (watch time).
8. First student responds.  
Of course, in order to time student interaction, you will need a timer and you will have to train students to be aware of it. A standard clock will work, but a large countdown timer with an alarm is more effective. (There are many varieties on the market to choose from.) You can also put a timer or smart phone under a document viewer.

If you have internet connection, try: online-stopwatch.com. (Be sure to click on “Use the Countdown Timer Full Screen” to avoid ads on the timer screen.)

**TEAM TABLE MATS**

**EXPEDITE THE PROCESS**

Make it easier for students to pair up to share with a “shoulder” partner next to them or “face” partner across from them in Think/Timed-Pair-Share. Table mats make roles clear to students: Use A and B for partners; use numbers one to four for round table activities. See page 2 for a full-size version to duplicate onto cardstock to use in class. Use one mat per group of four students for each cooperative learning team.
In the next issue of Learning Together, we will address a new cooperative learning strategy, “Numbered Heads Together”, to further increase engagement and assess learning.