

# The Micro Lab Protocol

Reflect individually on the issue or topic being examined, then working in triads:

A colorful, multi-colored banner with the word "SHARE" in white capital letters.

**SHARE**

- The 1st person in the group shares for a set time (1-2 minutes). The other members listen attentively without comment or interruption.

A red circular button with a silver rim and the word "PAUSE" in white capital letters.

**PAUSE**

- Pause for 20 - 30 seconds of silence to take in what was said.



- Repeat for persons 2 and 3, pausing for a moment of silence after each round.



- Discuss as a group (5-10 minutes), referencing the comments that have been made and making connections between the responses of the group.

An orange brushstroke-style banner with the word "purpose" in white lowercase letters.

purpose

This routine is designed to ensure equal participation and make sure everyone contributes during class discussion. It also helps to build active listening skills and the ability to build on and connect to others' ideas.

A blue oval containing the text "Synthesising & Organising Ideas".

Synthesising  
& Organising  
Ideas

## **PURPOSE**

*What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?*

This routine is designed to ensure equal participation and make sure everyone contributes during class discussion. It also helps to build active listening skills and the ability to build on and connect to others' ideas.

## **APPLICATION**

*When and where can it be used?*

Use this routine:

- To discuss and explore perspectives on current and events, to reflect and share what one has learned so far, to explore and process, to discuss possible problem-solving strategies.
- **NB:** as with any discussion, content matters. Meaningful discussions emerge from meaningful content.

## **ASSESSMENT**

*How can I use this routine as an assessment?*

As this routine exists in a moment of time, there exists both opportunities and challenges when assessing.

- *Are learners able to make connections to what others have said?*
- *Do they ask probing questions or clarification where needed?*
- *Are students able to build on one another's ideas to deepen their own understanding?*
- *Can they spot ideas both different and similar to their own?*

## **LAUNCH**

*What are the steps needed for starting and using this routine?*

1. **Set up** → Inform the learners of what you want to discuss and what you hope they will get out of these discussions. Give learners 5-10 to reflect (written).
2. **Share** → Learner 1 begins sharing for set time (1-2 minutes). No one speaks except the speaker.
3. **Pause** → Allow 20-30 seconds of silence for everyone to process what was heard. In the beginning you may ask students just to mentally review what they heard.
4. **Repeat** → Repeat steps 2 and 3 above until every member of the group has shared their thinking. If a learner finishes speaking before time's up, the group spends the rest of the time reflecting in silence.
5. **Discuss** → Groups can now engage in an open discussion for a predetermined time (5-10 minutes). Encourage groups to begin by making connections between what others have said or asking questions of clarification.
6. **Share the thinking** → As a whole group, ask students to reflect on the protocol itself and how they felt it facilitated their thinking about the issue or topic.