



15 MINUTE PROJECT TUNING FOR STUDENTS

This protocol is for students to share their in-progress work and thinking with their peers. The goal is to solicit peer feedback, elicit questions, and receive suggestions for continued improvement and learning.

Norms:

- Be hard on the content, soft on the people
- Be kind, helpful, and specific
- Share the air (or “step up, step back”)

Protocol: This exercise takes approximately 14 minutes per presenter. The teacher will arrange students in groups of four and act as a class-wide facilitator and timekeeper. With practice, all students can have their ideas critiqued within one hour.

1. **Project Overview** (3 min): The presenter gives an **overview of their idea** and shares his/her thinking about key design issues. This can include sharing drafts, plans, or other artifacts to help the group understand his/her ideas. The presenter should share a dilemma or question that he/she is working on. *Participants are silent.*
2. **Group Think Time** (1 min): Participants write ideas about **what they want to know more about, questions, and any ideas they have for the presenter**. *The presenter is silent; participants do this work silently.*
3. **Clarifying Questions** (2 min): Participants ask “**clarifying**” questions of the presenter. Clarifying questions help the group better understand the presenter’s ideas and tend to yield brief, factual answers (i.e., “I will do three interviews,” or “My rocket will have four large fins.”)
4. **Probing Questions** (2 min): Participants ask “**probing**” questions of the presenter. Probing questions reveal the presenter’s thinking and logic. Probing questions tend to start with “how” or “why.”
5. **Discussion** (5 min): Participants begin by offering **positive feedback**. Then they identify **opportunities for growth, improvement, or change**. What are the strongest or most exciting parts of the presenter’s idea? How might we build on these? Will we be able to complete this idea? Where do we see areas for improvement? How might the presenter need our help?

During this time, the presenter remains silent and takes notes. Participants should direct their comments to each other, not the presenter. The facilitator may need to remind participants of the presenter’s initial dilemma question.

6. **Reflection** (1 min): The presenter has the **opportunity to respond** to the discussion. The presenter may share what struck him/her about the participants’ comments and what next steps might be taken as a result of the discussion. *Participants are silent.*