Paired Verbal Fluency

In paired verbal fluency (PVF), a pair of students engages in a brief, focused conversation in response to one question or topic you provide to them. The steps for PVF are as follows:

Divide the students into pairs.

Designate one student as “A” and the other as “B.”

When the PVF begins, person A speaks for 1 minute in response to the question or topic. Person A must speak for the entire minute, even if she or he repeats some points. Person B must only listen without responding.

At the end of 1 minute, call time, and ask the students to reverse the roles: person B speaks for 1 full minute in response to the same question or topic, while person A listens without responding.

When you call time again, ask the students to repeat this procedure, speaking for 30 seconds each.

Students repeat this procedure one final time, speaking for just 20 seconds each.

When well facilitated, PVF takes only about 4 minutes. It is a time-efficient way either to warm up or review at the beginning of class or to summarize or conclude at the end of class.