

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.

