



SEVEN MINUTE PROJECT TUNING

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 7 minutes per presenter. The teacher will arrange the students in groups of four or five.

1. **Project Overview** (1 min): The presenter gives an **overview of their idea** and shares his/her thinking about key design issues. *Participants are silent.*
2. **Group Think Time** (1 min): Participants write ideas about **what they want to know more about, questions, and ideas for the presenter**. *The presenter is silent; participants do this work silently.*
3. **Clarifying Questions** (1 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. **Discussion** (3 min): Participants begin with **positive feedback**. Then participants identify **opportunities for growth**. 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 dilemma question.

5. **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.*