



ONE MINUTE INSERVICE

Take a minute; learn a lot!



Hurry Up and Wait!

For many of us, wait time is not a new idea, but it plays a vital role in the retention of information. Research shows that many teachers ask questions at the rate of two or three per minute. Only one second would pass before the questions were repeated or restated or before the teacher called on someone else.

Offering students the opportunity to have just a few seconds to respond can give them enough time to access prior knowledge, evaluate what has been said, and formulate an appropriate response. When wait time is increased to three seconds, remarkable changes occur for the students. The positive effects of longer wait time include:

- *responses change from a single word to a whole statement;
- *self-confidence increases;
- *guessing decreases;
- *students piggyback on each other's ideas;
- *responses by slower students increase;
- *students ask more questions; and
- *student achievement improves.

In addition to increasing wait time, two verbal responses by the teacher can be used to keep students thinking about a concept or idea. The first is, "What else?" This question conveys that there may be other acceptable answers and to keep trying. The other statement is, "Tell me more." This request cues the students to do more in-depth thinking, to dig for details, and to synthesize information.

Source: [How to Teach So Students Remember](#), by Marilee Sprenger, ASCD, 2005.