Project 2013 calculates the duration of a project based on task durations and how task dependencies are created between tasks. Establishing the order of the tasks is called Sequencing. Sequencing is concerned with establishing the order tasks should or could be performed. Arranging tasks in the most efficient order for the project is not an easy exercise. Sometimes, the order of the tasks is very evident and at other times, more complicated. The task sequencing order is more up to the scheduler and needs to be focused on what is right for a specific project.

For example, the following tasks are tasks that someone would do when they come home after work and before they go to bed:

1. Arrive Home
2. Eat Dinner
3. Walk the dog
4. Run an errand
5. Read the mail
6. Clean up the dinner dishes
7. Cook dinner
8. Go to Sleep
9. Get the mail
10. Watch the news

Take a minute to write down the numbers of the tasks above in the order you would perform these tasks. If you have some post-it notes you can write the task names on the notes and move the notes around to achieve the sequencing order.

Did you notice that some tasks have a forced relationship?

* You can’t eat dinner until you have cooked dinner.
* You can’t read the mail until you get the mail.

Other relationships will work in a more random order:

* Run the errand.
* Watch the news.

Try this exercise again taking into consideration that you have a second person helping you achieve these tasks.

What you might have noticed this time you sequenced the tasks:

* The project took a shorter length of time.
* The work was divided over the workers.
* Some tasks were performed with the people working together and others were performed by only one worker.

Compare your task list to others in the class. You might see that the work will get done but others have a different option as to the order the tasks will be completed. Is one list more right than another list?

What you are seeing that the art of project management. Projecting what will work best for a given situation is derived from experience, opinion and the workers performing the tasks. MS Project provides task relationships to support task sequencing which is discussed in the next section.