

## MLR 4: Information Gap

**Set-up:** Assign students a partner and a role based on their respective cards:

	Partner A	Partner B
<b>Card</b>	A “problem card” with a problem that must be solved	A “data card” with the information, diagrams, tables, etc. needed to solve Partner A’s problem
<b>Limitation</b>	Cannot see the data Must justify their specific information request	Cannot see the problem Cannot share information unless Partner A specifically asks for it
<b>Goal</b>	Produce clear and specific requests by: 1. Determining what information they need 2. Asking Partner B for that specific information	Work to understand more about the problem by listening to Partner A’s: 1. Specific information requests 2. Request justifications

**Bridging the Gap:** Encourage pairs to follow these guiding steps until Partner A believes they have all the information they need to solve the problem.

- Partner B asks “What specific information do you need?” Partner A asks for specific information from Partner B.
- Before sharing the requested information, Partner B presses Partner A for a justification by asking “Why do you need that information?”
- Partner A explains how they plan to use the information.
- Partner B continues to ask clarifying questions as needed, and then provides the information.

**Solving the Problem:** Ask students to independently solve the problem then compare answers with their partner.

- Tell Partner A to share the problem card with Partner B, but tell Partner B not to share the data card yet.
- Have both students solve the problem alone, then discuss their personal strategies.
- Instruct Partner B to share the data card after the discussion.