MLR 4: Information Gap

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

	Partner A	Partner B
Card	A "problem card" with a problem that must be solved	A "data card" with the information, diagrams, tables, etc. need to solve Partner A's problem
Limitation	Cannot see the data Must justify their specific information request	Cannot see the problem Cannot share information unless Partner A specifically asks for it
Goal	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.