What Is a Three-Minute Pause?  
The Three-Minute Pause is a during reading strategy and it provides a chance for students to stop, reflect on the concepts and ideas that have just been introduced, make connections to prior knowledge or experience, and seek clarification.

**Procedure**

**1) Summarize Key Ideas Thus Far.** The teacher instructs students to get into groups (anywhere from three to five students, usually). Give them a total of three minutes for the ENTIRE process. First, they should focus in on the key points of the lesson up to this point. It's a way for them to stop to see if they are getting the main ideas.

**2) Add Your Own Thoughts.** Next, the students should consider prior knowledge connections they can make to the new information. Suggested questions: What connections can be made? What does this remind you of? What would round out your understanding of this? What can you add?

**3) Pose Clarifying Questions.** Are there things that are still not clear? Are there confusing parts? Are you having trouble making connections? Can you anticipate where we're headed? Can you probe for deeper insights?

\*It would be beneficial for the teacher to make a graphic organizer that coincides with the topic or the lesson. If this is not an option, have the students jot the ideas down in their notebooks.