The **TOAD** is a type of interval recording method. Interval recording involves observing whether a behavior occurs or does not occur during specified time periods. The TOAD is a recording form that uses 15 second intervals (90 total intervals) for a total observation time of 15 minutes. The TOAD can be used as a *momentary time sample recording*, a *whole interval recording* or a *partial interval recording*. A watch or clock with a second hand must be used to indicate the end of an interval to alert the observer that it is time to look up to observe whether a behavior is occurring and to record the result on a data sheet.

To use the TOAD as a *momentary time sample recording*, the observer looks up and records whether a behavior occurs or does not occur at the very **end** of the interval, in this case every 15 seconds.

*Whole interval recording* means that the observer is interested in behavior that occurs during the **entire** interval. Examples of ongoing behaviors that can be observed using whole interval recording include writing, walking, reading, or working on a given assignment. You record only when the behavior occurs the **entire** duration of the 15 second interval.

*Partial interval recording* means that the observer is interested in behavior that occurs in **any part** of the interval and that the behavior usually does not consume the entire interval. Examples of discrete behaviors that can be observed using partial interval recording include swearing, hitting, participating in class discussions, and making positive statements to peers and others. You will record on the form if the behavior is observed at **any point** during the 15 second interval.

**Directions for Using the TOAD:**

1. Set aside a 15 minute block of time for the observation
2. Determine what type of recording you feel appropriate (momentary, whole, partial). Write what type of recording method was used on the data sheet.
3. Record your start time at the top of the sheet.
4. Start your timing when the second hand reaches 12.
5. Record by placing an “X” in the corresponding box whether the behavior occurs during/throughout or at the end of each 15 second interval (depending on whether you are using partial, whole or momentary time sampling)
6. At the completion of the 15 minute observation you will have observed ninety 15 second intervals.
7. Calculate the total percentage of each occurrence of behavior, for example if the number of talk outs (T) was 30/60 your percentage would be 50%. Record this at the bottom of the sheet.