



# Think–Pair–Share

## INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES AND SUGGESTIONS

- Think-Pair-Share is a versatile strategy designed to encourage students to think about their learning and then share and discuss ideas with a partner.
- Use the strategy during any stage of the lesson.
  - *Opening activity: activate prior knowledge; make a prediction*
  - *During instruction: summarize main ideas; clarify a difficult concept*
  - *Closing activity: respond to a specific question; summarize key ideas*
- Think-Pair-Share works well in a large class since it provides an opportunity for all students to share with at least one other student.
- The “think” time is important to increase the quality of responses.
- Research indicates more information is retained when students have time to think it over.
- Pose specific question(s) for think time.
- Think time is silent time.
- While students are paired, the teacher should move about the room to monitor discussions.
- This allows the teacher to clarify any misconceptions during whole-group discussion.
- During share time, randomly call on students to share ideas with the whole group.
- Encourage students to speak in complete sentences.
- Occasionally call on a student to share what his/her partner said.
- It is not necessary for every pair to report in large group.

## EXTENSIONS/VARIATIONS:

Think-Write-Pair-Share adds an additional step – writing. This works well for those students who may need time to organize their thoughts before speaking. The focus is not on the conventions of writing, but on the ideas generated. The academic level or literacy level of your class will determine when to use this variation.

Think-Pair-Share-Square adds an additional level to the discussion. After partners share, they join another pair to continue the discussion. Move about the room, listening for academic vocabulary and to guarantee the discussion is on topic. Reconvene whole group for closure.

For More Info

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