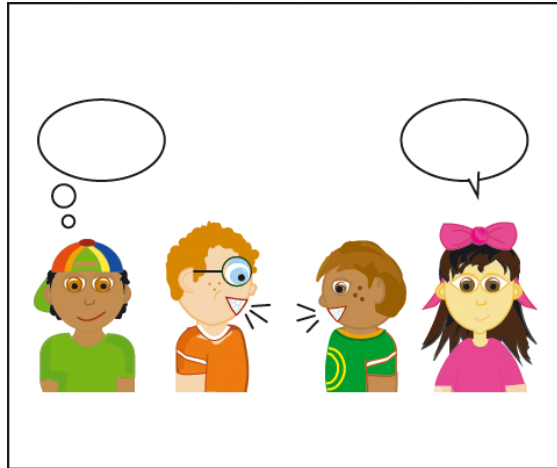


## Think-Pair-Share

### Overview

Think-Pair-Share is a cooperative learning strategy that can promote and support higher-level thinking. The teacher asks students to think about a specific topic, then pair with another student to discuss their thinking and, after that, share their ideas with the group.



### Steps

1. Decide on how to organize students into pairs (counting heads, ABAB, male/female, etc.).
2. Pose a discussion topic or a question.
3. Give students at least 10 seconds to think on their own ("think time").
4. Ask students to pair with their partner and share their thinking.
5. Call on a few students to share their ideas with the rest of the class.

### Hints and Management Ideas

- *Pre-assign partners.* Rather than waiting until the discussion time, indicate in advance who students' partners will be. Otherwise, the focus might be on finding a partner rather than on thinking about the topic at hand.
- *Change partners.* Students should be given an opportunity to think with a variety of partners.
- *Monitor the discussions* for common misconceptions and unique ideas to address later with the whole group.

### Benefits of Think-Pair-Share

- When students have appropriate "think time", the quality of their responses improves.
- Students are actively engaged in thinking.
- Thinking becomes more focused when it is discussed with a partner.
- More critical thinking is retained after a lesson in which students have had an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the topic.
- Many students find it easier or safer to enter into a discussion with another classmate, rather than with a large group.
- No specific materials are needed for this strategy, so it can be easily incorporated into lessons.
- Building on the ideas of others is an important skill for students to learn.

For more detailed information, refer to Kagan, Spencer. *Cooperative Learning*. San Juan Capistrano: Kagan Cooperative Learning, 1994.