

Think Pair Share

What Is a Think Pair Share???

Think Pair Share is a cooperative discussion strategy developed by Frank Lyman and his colleagues in Maryland. It gets its name from the three stages of student action, with emphasis on what students are going to be doing at each of those stages. Think Pair Share is helpful because it structures discussion. It limits off task behavior and thinking and has accountability build in because students must report to each other and then to the class.

How does it work?

THINK

The teacher provokes students' thinking with a question or prompt or observation. The students should take a few moments just to THINK about the question.

PAIR

Using designated partners, nearby neighbors, or a desk mate, students PAIR up to talk about the answer each came up with. They compare their mental or written notes and identify the answers they think are best, most convincing or most unique.

SHARE

After students talk in pairs for a few moments, the teacher calls for pairs to SHARE their thinking with the rest of the class. You can do this by going around in round robin fashion, calling on each pair; or she can take answers as they are called out or as hands are raised. You or a designated recorder can record these responses on the board or overhead if you wish.

So when might I use this?

- Before a lesson or topic to orient the class (ie: previous knowledge)
- During teacher modeling or explanation
- Any time, to check understanding of material
- At the end of a teacher explanation, demonstration etc, to enable students to cognitively process the material.
- To break up a long period of sustained activity.
- Whenever it is helpful to share ideas.
- For clarification of instructions, rules of a game, homework etc.

Sources:

http://www.eazhull.org.uk/nlc/think_pair_share.htm

<http://www.readingquest.org/strat/tps.html>

<http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/DE/PD/instr/strats/think/index.html>