

Title: Think-Pair-Share

Think-Pair-Share is an active-learning strategy in which students take some time to think about a question or problem on their own, then pair up with a partner and discuss, and then finally some pairs might share out with the whole group.

Step 1: Students consider a question, problem, or prompt. They might think to themselves and jot down some ideas.

8 student silhouettes are paired in varying shades of gray. Each silhouette has a thought bubble above their head.

Step 2: Students discuss their answer with a partner, identifying areas of consensus and disagreement.

8 student silhouettes are paired in varying shades of gray. Each pair of students is talking to each other, demonstrated by speech bubbles toward each other.

Step 3: Some students then share out with the whole class about the problem-solving strategy, conclusion, or discussion.

8 student silhouettes are paired in varying shades of gray. Two students have very large speech bubbles, indicating they are sharing out loud with the whole class.

In a variation of this activity, called Think-Pair-Square-Share, after the Pair discussion, two groups have a discussion (two Pairs make a Square) before the share. This can be especially useful if there are lots of different approaches or opinions on the topic.

What are the benefits of a Think-Pair-Share?

- Students have time to think about answers before having to share.
- Students share their pair or group answer, which can decrease pressure.
- Students hear another problem-solving strategy or approach.
- Students are given space to practice disagreeing.

What are the caveats of a Think-Pair-Share?

- Sometimes students who are confused may glean enough from the Pair discussion to convince themselves (and you) that they understand.

What are extensions of a Think-Pair-Share?

- Instructors can add in polls to gauge where students are during each stage of this process. A Think-Poll-Pair-Repoll-Share-Repoll can help identify misconceptions and confusion.