

Think-Pair-Share

Overview: Think-Pair-Share is an *active learning* technique in which students develop a response to a thought provoking question and exchange ideas with a classmate. The technique works well in large classes where there are fewer opportunities for students to discuss ideas. It also appeals to instructors because it can be inserted into a class period at almost any point and takes only a few minutes to complete.

Think-Pair-Share procedure:

- The instructor poses a thought provoking question or problem.
- Students are given one or two minutes to write an individual response.
- The instructor then directs students to share their response with a student sitting next to them. To prompt critical thinking the instructor should give students a specific task such as to identify the key similarities and differences between the two answers or to integrate or synthesize ideas from both students into a single best response.
- Students are given a few minutes to complete the shared task.
- The instructor orchestrates a class discussion based on the students' responses. This could involve pairs of students *reporting out* or responding to new questions.

A benefit of think-pair-share is that it can produce a focused discussion in which students have opportunities to work out their ideas in class. Students' responses are feedback the instructor can use to plan the next instructional moves and the instructor can also give feedback to the class about their ideas.

Reference: For more information about how to use think-pair-share and to view a brief video of it being used in a college class, go to <http://serc.carleton.edu/introgeo/interactive/tpshare.html>.