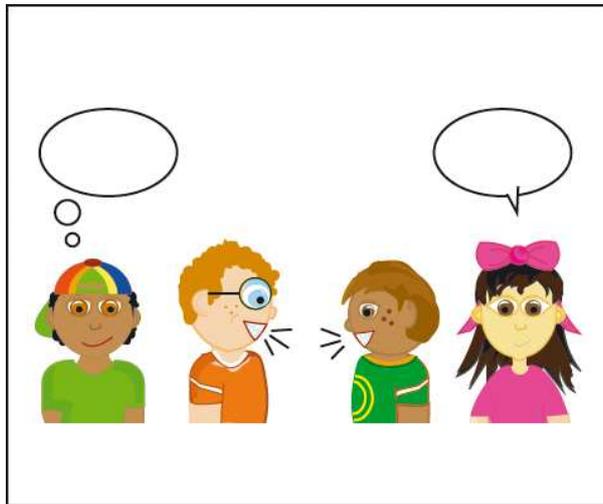


Think-Pair-Share

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 own 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 become one of finding a partner rather than of thinking about the topic at hand.
- *Change partners.* Students should be given an opportunity to think with a variety of partners.
- *Monitor the discussions.* It is important to listen to some of the discussions so that common misconceptions can be addressed and unique ideas shared with the whole group.

Think-Pair-Share (continued)

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 of the 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 (1994). *Cooperative Learning*. San Juan Capistrano: Kagan Cooperative Learning.