Think-Pair-Share:

A Cooperative Learning Strategy

What is Think-Pair-Share?

Think-Pair-Share is a learning strategy developed by Lyman and associates to encourage student classroom participation. Rather than using a basic recitation method in which a teacher poses a question and one student offers a response, Think-Pair-Share encourages a high degree of pupil response and can help keep students on task.

What are the Component Parts of Think-Pair-Share?

* Students listen while the teacher poses a question verbally (or students read the question provided by the teacher).
* Students are then given time to think of a response.
* Students are often asked to pair with a partner (a neighbor/student peer) and to discuss their responses.
* Students are then encouraged to share their responses with the whole class.

Teachers may also ask students to write or diagram their responses while doing the Think-Pair-Share activity.

Why do Think-Pair-Share?

Student Benefits

With Think-Pair-Share, students are given time to think through their own answers to the question(s) before the questions are answered by other peers and the discussion moves on. Students also have the opportunity to think aloud with another student about their responses before being asked to share their ideas publicly. This strategy provides an opportunity for all students to share their thinking with at least one other student; this, in turn, increases their sense of involvement in classroom learning.

As a Cooperative Learning strategy, Think-Pair-Share also benefits students in the areas of peer acceptance, peer support, academic achievement, self-esteem, and increased interest in other students and school.

Teacher Benefits

Students spend more time on task and listen to each other more when engaged in Think-Pair-Share activities. More students are willing to respond in large groups after they have been able to share their responses in pairs. The quality of students responses also improves.

Adapted from the following source:

Kagan, Spencer. Cooperative learning resources for teachers. Concept Development Structures.