

# Think Pair Share

Type: Sharing Ideas, Checking for Understanding



## What Is It?

Participants consider an issue or problem individually and then discuss their ideas with a partner.

## Why Use It?

Encourages participants to think about a question, issue or reading, and then refine their understanding through discussion with a partner

Provides a safe opportunity to reflect and share thoughts for participants who need more time to process ideas before sharing with the group

## How to Use It

1. Choose a teachable moment during the class or at the end of a learning session where the process of reflection and shared discussion would bring deeper understanding.
2. Prepare a topic, question, or prompt for a planned Think Pair Share. Have a clear objective for what you want the participants to consider and where you want the discussion to go.
3. Pose your question or prompt to the group.
4. Ask participants to spend several minutes silently thinking about (and possibly writing down) ideas in response to your question. Set clear expectations regarding the focus of thinking and sharing to be done.
5. Ask participants to turn to the person beside them to share their ideas and understanding.
6. Call upon some pairs to share their ideas with the whole class.

## Trainer Notes

Use Think Pair Share in all subject areas for almost any topic. For example: to discuss ethical topics, to review previously learned material, to clarify understanding of new learning, to solve problems or exchange ideas.

This strategy can be used for relatively simple questions and for ones that require more sophisticated thinking skills. The amount of time you provide for reflection and discussion will depend on the complexity of the topic / question.

Encourage the participants to use their skills such as good listening, taking turns, respectful consideration of different points of view, asking for clarification and rephrasing ideas.

After participants share in pairs, consider sharing as a whole group or switching partners to continue the exchange of ideas.