

WHAT IS IT?

The Think-Pair-Share (T-P-S) technique is designed to encourage students to share and discuss ideas around a particular topic, issue or problem. You can plan to use Think-Pair-Share within a planned lecture, but it is also easy to implement it spontaneously. This strategy can be used to gauge conceptual understanding, filter information, draw conclusions and encourage peer learning among students. Results can also signal to you that you may need to re-explain content or provide further support for students. A related pedagogy is Mazur's (1997) 'turn-to-your neighbour' that forms the basis of Mazur's peer instruction technique.

WHY USE IT?

- T-P-S breaks the lecture to allow students to time to reflect on challenging content.
- It allows students to negotiate meaning with each other or discuss their proposed solutions.
- The strategy provides a diagnostic point to ensure students are on track.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Suited to:

- Flat floor
- Tiered lecture
- Small classes
- Large classes

HOW DO I DO IT?

1. Let your students know that you will be using the technique and provide them with instructions.
2. Plan the activity in advance of the lecture.
3. Pose a challenging question around a topic or concept that you know students find difficult.
4. **Think:** Begin by asking a question about a topic or concept and allow students to think individually about their answer (1-3 minutes.)
5. **Pair:** Each student is paired with another (if uneven numbers, allow 3). To discuss their answers (2-5 minutes).
6. **Share:** Expand the discussion to the whole class by calling upon students to discuss their proposed solutions and any difficulties they had. You can call upon students randomly or have volunteers discuss their thoughts.
7. Provide feedback to students by using this opportunity to correct misconceptions and reinforce correct answers.



WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER?

- Once you are comfortable with introducing Think-Pair-Share, you may wish to consider using Mazur's [Peer Instruction Technique](#)
- The exercise could eat into lecture time so you may consider putting some lecture materials online before class and ask students to prepare before the lecture. This is a modified form of the flipped classroom known as a partial flip.



WHAT COULD I USE?

- Paper
- Pens / pencils
- Devices

UQ TOOLS:

- UQ Poll
- Padlet

OTHER TOOLS:

- [Kahoot](#): Free third party tool for multiple-choice questions
- [Padlet](#): Free third party tool for short answers and links to multimedia



WHAT IF I WANT MORE?

- [How to do a Think Pair Share - TeachLikeThis](#) [video 2:36]
- [Think-Pair-Share - Brown University](#)
- [Think-Pair-Share - SERC](#)
- [Merlot](#)
- [Teacher vision: Discusses the pedagogical benefits of think-pair-share](#)
- Mazur, E. (1997). *Peer Instruction: A User's Manual*. Series in Educational Innovation, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.