



Dr. Frank Lyman's

Think-Pair-Share

Think-Pair-Share is a simple, yet powerful cooperative learning structure. First conceived in 1977 by Frank Lyman and Arlene Mindus, it has developed into a widely-acclaimed tool for use with any year level or content area. This *SmartCard* provides you with the basic **steps** of the structure, the importance of **think time**, and a variety of ways that students can **think** about the content, interact as a **pair**, and **share** their thinking with others.



The Many Ways to Think Pair Share

Think-Pair-Share is flexible. There are many ways for students to think about the content, interact in pairs over the content, and share what they know or learned. For example, during think time, students can visualise the content, they can create a list with multiple ideas, or they can recall facts from the lesson. There are also a multitude of ways to have students interact in pairs. Partners can interview each other, take turns listing ideas, or debate an issue. Sharing, too, can take many forms: One student can share with the class, all students can share their answers simultaneously, or students can act out their responses. The crucial ingredient is think time with hands down, cued by the teacher. Students follow another signal to move to pair talk or directly to share. It can be viewed as Think-Share and sometimes Pair, or Think-Pair and sometimes Share. Written think time is particularly effective.

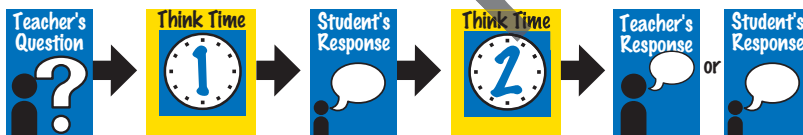
On the inside and back of this SmartCard, you will find some of the many ways to think, pair and share. As you use Think-Pair-Share in your classroom, enhance learning and develop thinking skills by having students think about the content in different ways. Make learning more meaningful and active by having students interact over the content in different ways. And stretch students' intelligences by giving them multiple routes to express their knowledge and share it with classmates.

Think-Pair-Share Steps

- 1 The teacher presents a question or problem.
- 2 Students are given think time to **think** of their responses.
- 3 Students, as a **pair**, discuss their responses.
- 4 Students **share** their responses with a larger group.

The Importance of Think Time

"Think time", also called "wait time", is fundamentally important to teaching, learning and classroom management. There are two types of think time:



• **Think Time 1:** The time between the teacher's question and a student's response.

• **Think Time 2:** The time between the student's response and the teacher's or next student's response.

Research reveals that teachers provide an average of only one second of think time — not enough time to develop and rehearse thinking! By expanding think time to 3-5 seconds (with hands down), different students respond more frequently, listen better to each other, are more accurate, feel more confident, offer more varied responses, are more willing to speculate, ask more questions, and behave in a more focused manner. *Think-Pair-Share has think time built into the structure to increase think time and enhance thinking and learning.*