

Strategies for Increasing Student Engagement: Think-Pair-Share

DEPARTMENT OF

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence

SUPPORT SERVICES

Transform the way your students participate in class by engaging them in rich discussion. This three-phase process can be used to review older content, brainstorm new ideas, or debrief learning at the end of a lesson.

Think

- 1. Pose an open-ended question to your students. This can be a quick brainstorming activity or a much deeper, thought-provoking idea.
- 2. Ask students to consider the question by jotting down an answer on paper.
- 3. Give students a specific time frame for which they will answer the question.
- 4. Walk around the room and interact with students as they are working. Offer help and clarity as you listen to student responses.

Pair

- 5. Once time has elapsed, ask students to pair with a neighbor and discuss their ideas.
- 6. Continue to walk around the room, listening to conversations and talking to students. This will provide you with formative feedback regarding student learning, as well as help to keep your students focused on the task.
- 7. This is also a great opportunity for you to prepare certain students for possibly sharing their ideas with the whole class, especially those who are typically reluctant.

Share

- 8. Once pairs have had a chance to discuss their ideas, call the group back together to share responses with the entire class.
- 9. You may ask for volunteers, or purposely call on certain students.
- 10. This final stage of the process allows you to relate the students' ideas to the goal of your lesson, further solidifying learning.