

Plus/Minus/Interesting (PMI) Strategy

What is it?

Plus/Minus/Interesting (PMI) is a lateral and creative thinking strategy used in de Bono's CoRT Thinking Program.

What is its purpose?

PMI helps students learn to:

- see both sides of an argument
- view things from a different point of view
- think broadly about an issue
- suspend judgement
- make informed decisions
- work as individuals, in pairs or as members of a group.

How can I do it?

This strategy can be used within a range of classroom activities such as analysing texts or examining issues. Students are provided with a format for recording:

Plus	Minus	Interesting

Individually, in pairs or small groups, they apply three questions to a statement or task provided by the teacher:

- What are the positive ideas about this?
- What are the negative ideas about this?
- What is interesting about this?

A recorder and reporter are appointed and within a specified time limit, students brainstorm their responses. At the end of the designated time, students report back on their most original/creative ideas from each of the categories.

It is useful to model the activity first, using a statement such as: "In the near future, global warming will lead to large-scale melting of the polar ice caps."

(Adapted from <http://www.discover.tased.edu.au/english/PMI.htm>)