

# Think Pair Share and 1-2-4 Strategies

## What is it?

Think-Pair-Share is a cooperative learning strategy which allows students to think about a question/idea/issue/notion and share their thoughts with a partner before discussion in a small group.

## What is its purpose?

The strategy allows students to share their thoughts in a non-threatening situation.

It involves all members of a group rather than just the more confident, articulate students. Students learn to share with a range of class members rather than remaining within their peer group. The opinions of all members of the class are valued. The focus is on short-term, purposeful talk.

## How do I do it?

Explain the purpose of the strategy to the class and the idea/issue/problem to be discussed. A revision of listening skills is also useful here. (Eye contact, non-verbal encouragement such as nodding, no put downs, no interrupting.) The process may include the following steps:

- Identify the point of discussion
- Allow think time as students think individually
- Have students face a partner and share their ideas
- The pair contributes to a larger group or the whole class and ideas are recorded
- Use the shared list of ideas for future work or to create a new idea.

## 1-2-4 Strategy

Double up a Think-Pair-Share into a 1-2-4 Strategy: two pairs share with each other and one member of the group acts as reporter.

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