

Intervention: Bilingual/ESL Instructional Strategies for ELL Students

THINK, PAIR, SHARE Technique (All Grades)

The *Think, Pair, Share* strategy is a cooperative learning technique that encourages interaction and individual participation, and it's applicable across all grade levels and class sizes. Students think through questions using three distinct steps:

- *Think*—The instructor poses a challenging or open-ended question and gives approx. 1 minute for everyone to think about the question on their own.
- *Pair*—Students are grouped in pairs to discuss their thoughts. This step allows students to articulate their ideas and to consider those of others.
- *Share*—Student pairs share their ideas with a larger group, such as the whole class or another small group. Often, students are more comfortable presenting ideas to a group with the support of a partner. In addition, students' ideas have become more refined through this three-step process.

****Modify*. You may skip the whole group discussion and have students (individuals or pairs) write down and hand in their thoughts on paper. This gives the instructor a chance to check for gaps in understanding.

Sources:

Exchange Co-Nect. < <http://exchange.co-nect.net/>>

“Cooperative Learning Strategies.” *Australian Department of Education, Science and Training*. <<http://www.myread.org/organisation.htm - thinkpairshare>>

From: *Working with English Language Learners: A Resource Document for After-School Providers*, Massachusetts Department of Education (2005)

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/21cclc/ta/ell.doc>