

Think-Ink-Pair-Share

The Think-Ink-Pair-Share strategy helps students develop their critical thinking skills while bringing writing into content classroom instruction in a way that is non-threatening yet meaningful for students. The strategy helps students in the following critical thinking areas: making predictions, problem solving, decision making, and consensus building.

Think-Ink-Pair-Share involves a four step cooperative structure. During the first step individuals think silently about a question posed by the instructor. During the second step students write down what they want to share with their partners. This gives them a chance to put their thoughts in order. The student could just write down key words if they are beginners in their writing. Then individuals pair up during the third step and exchange thoughts. In the final step, the pairs share their responses with other pairs, other teams, or the entire group. An option at the end is to write what their partner shared. They can add to or change their initial writing.



Think-Ink-Pair-Share was designed to ensure that students have an opportunity to consider their oral responses, written work, thinking and ideas with another person in anticipation that they will be expected to share with the whole class.

What Makes This Strategy Good for ESL Students

- Lowers the affective filter, because they can check their answer with a friend
- Increases the likelihood that students will make attempts at oral responses, promoting risk-taking
- Provides an opportunity for students to negotiate meaning
- Provides opportunities for clarification in the native language if needed and available
- Promotes interaction and oral language development