



THINK-PAIR-SHARE DISCUSSION MODEL

Think-Pair-Share is an alternative to the traditional class discussion format. Instead of asking a question and then calling on a student with a raised hand, the teacher asks a question and then asks students to do the following:

1. Think quietly to themselves about an answer.
2. Turn to a partner to pair up and discuss each other's ideas.
3. Raise their hands to share thoughts, one at a time, and discuss with the whole group.

You can learn more about Think-Pair-Share at TeacherVision.com.

TRANSITION TECHNIQUES

BREAKING INTO SMALL GROUPS

When you want to explain a task to the whole class, and then have students break into small groups to complete it, it can be effective to start your explanation in an intentional way, such as by saying "When I say go, and not before I say go, each group will ...". When you have finished all of your instructions, then you can say "Alright ... go!" This ensures that students know specifically when it is time to listen and when it is time to start their task.

GATHERING TOGETHER

When you want to call your students back together after they have been actively working in small groups, it can be fun to use a call back signal such as a chime, a special call-and-response, or a coyote howl. Some teachers say, for example: "One, Two, Three, Eyes on Me", and have the students respond "One, Two, Eyes on You!" or "When I say Sun, You say Flower. Sun ..." and students respond "Flower!"

Teach your students exactly what they are expected to do when they hear the call back, such as "Respond, and then return to the circle and give me your quiet attention within ten seconds." After you use the call-back, start a count-down to keep them motivated, as in "Ten, nine, eight ...". Their goal is to be circled up, quiet, and ready to listen when you get to zero. Practice this routine until they've got it down.

READ ALOUD STRATEGIES

ECHO READ

In an Echo Read, the teacher simply reads a short passage, and students repeat. You can learn about this strategy on the [Strategies for Special Interventions website](#).

CHORAL READ

In a Choral Read, the teacher and students read a passage together at the same time. You can learn about this strategy on the [Reading Rocket website](#).

STRATEGIES FOR DIVIDING TASKS

The garden and the kitchen provide abundant opportunities to divide a large task across many hands. Whether your students are preparing salsa or planting zucchini together, it will be helpful to have some strategies for guiding them in divvying up tasks. There are many ways to do this. Below we've summarized a few possibilities:

CARDINAL DIRECTIONS

Post the cardinal directions in your garden or kitchen. When it's time to divide tasks within groups, say something like "The person standing at the north end of the table will chop the tomatoes; then working around clockwise, the next person will chop the onion ..." and so on.

CHORE CHART

Create a Chore Chart in your garden or kitchen, and have groups rotate through various tasks. For example, when cleaning up the kitchen, Group A can be the Sweepers, Group B the Counter Wipers, etc. Then, each week, rotate the groups so that they are moved to a new task. The [We Are Teachers](#) website has loads of ideas for how these charts can look and operate.

POPSICLE STICKS

You can write each student's name on a popsicle stick and place all the names for one class in a cup. Then, when you want to select one individual student for a job, such as for example pushing the button on the blender, you simply pull a popsicle stick and call that student up.

CHORE CARDS

For regular chores, like Dishes, Sweeping, or Wiping Counters, you can write each chore onto a card and have students or groups pull cards from a bowl. The card they pull determines the task they will fulfill for that class period.

STUDENT CHOICE

When possible, it can be exciting and empowering for students to choose how they will contribute to the task at hand. Simply list the chores that need to happen, such as “Flipping Compost, Mulching Pathways, and Weeding” and ask students to sign up for the one they want to take on.

LEARNING GAMES

MEET A PLANT

In this game, students partner up. One student closes his/her eyes and the other guides his/her partner safely to a plant to explore with eyes closed. The partner then guides the student with his/her eyes closed back to a gathering area. The student opens eyes, and tries to find the plant they explored.

BLIND TASTE TEST GAME

In this game, students pair up. One student closes his/her eyes or puts on a blindfold and plugs his/her nose. The partner gives them something to taste, such as a slice of fruit, a basil leaf, or a green bean. The blindfolded person tries to guess what it is. Then they try the same food with their nose open and see if they can taste a difference and guess again. Then, they switch roles.