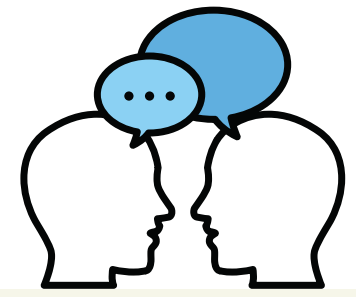




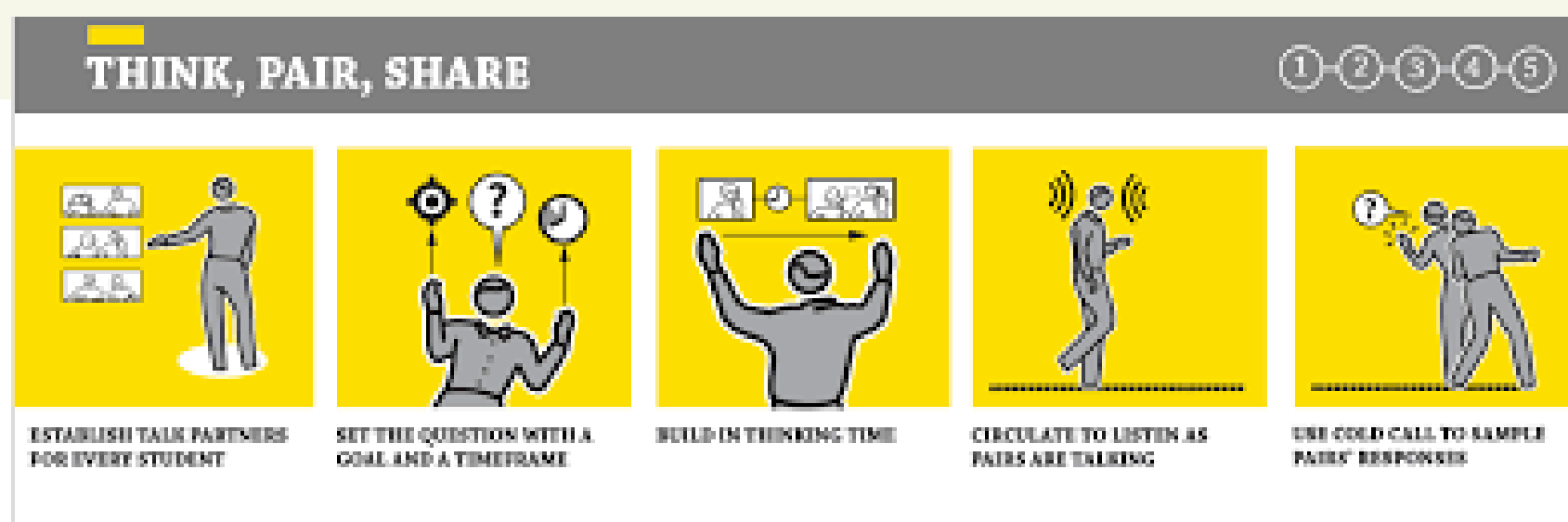
EPHS Teaching and Learning Blog

Think, Pair, Share



WHAT'S THE IDEA?

- Think, Pair, Share is an active-learning technique in which students are motivated to participate even if they have little intrinsic interest in the topic



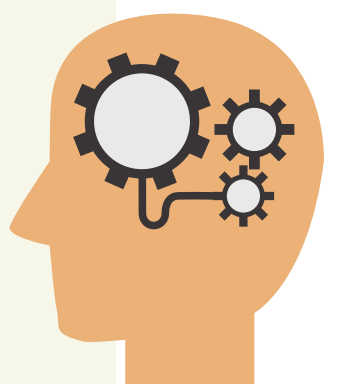
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Think-Pair-Share (TPS) is a cooperative learning activity that can work in varied size classrooms and in any subject. Instructors pose a question, students first THINK to themselves prior to being instructed to discuss their response with a person sitting near them (PAIR). Finally, the groups SHARE out what they discussed with their partner to the entire class and discussion continues. Students get time to think critically, creating a learning environment that encourages high quality responses (Rowe, 1972). TPS provides an opportunity for students to work in groups toward a common goal, increasing their own and others' understanding in a safe environment to make mistakes (Johnson & Johnson, 1999).



WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS?

- Describe TPS to your students, why you are doing it (how it helps learning) and acknowledge that it may be out of a student's comfort zone to participate.
- Pose an open-ended question for students to answer (aligned with instructional goal) and ask them to think to themselves for about a minute and write down their thoughts. Alternative – have students turn in a copy of their thoughts prior to pairing.
- Ask them to turn to the person next to them (groups of 2 or 3 only) and share their thought process/answer with each other. Alternative – have students take notes on their partner's process/answer.
- Let students know how they should be spending the time throughout: Let them know it is time they should be switching who is talking if they haven't already, let them know when they should be finishing up their thoughts.
- Prompt students to report out on "behalf" of their group. Summary could include differences in thought process and whether or not the group was in agreement.



TOP TIP

- TPS can be a 5-minute activity or something that takes 30 minutes or more. The key to a successful TPS activity is alignment; the question posed must be challenging and align with the instructional goal of the day/week (Wiggins & McTighe, 1998).



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

[HTTPS://TEACHERHEAD.COM/2012/07/17/THE-WASHING-HANDS-OF-LEARNING-THINK-PAIR-SHARE/](https://teacherhead.com/2012/07/17/the-washing-hands-of-learning-think-pair-share/)