

Norm Green

Listen Think Pair Share Problem Solving

One approach to the solving of problems or discussing of issues is the Listen-Think-Pair-Share strategy. Research has shown that allowing students "wait time" for silent thinking after questions are posed, leads students to give more elaborate answers, use more logical arguments to support inferences and give more speculative responses. It also encourages increased discussion and participation as well as leading to improved achievement. The strategy uses a cooperative learning situation in which student's involvement promotes increased verbal interaction resulting in the development of positive attitudes to learning.

Listen-Think-Pair-Share strategy combines the benefits of wait time and cooperative learning.

1. Students listen to a question or presentation.
2. They are then given time to think individually. This enables deeper levels of thinking and avoids impulsive answering, which may stifle thinking in other students.
3. Students talk to each other in pairs about the question or presentation. This interaction allows them to refine their thinking.
4. After interaction in pairs, students share their responses with the whole class. This allows for further refinement or embellishment of student's thinking.
5. The teacher may repeat the steps and ask children to think and then pair share after a student's response. The second "wait time" allows different aspects of the discussion to be focused on and increases the self-esteem of respondents. The teacher may use some of the following cueing systems to make this strategy more manageable and fun in the classroom.

Cues for Listen-Think-Pair-Share

