

Want to try Pair and Share in *your* class?

What is Pair and Share?

An easily acceptable, stress-free activity where students consider a question individually, discuss with neighbor students, and share with a larger group in order to stimulate a class discussion.

[Read more about Pair and Share in research](#)

Pair and Share At a Glance	
Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare materials • Prepare a question suitable for discussion
During	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the activity • Ask the question • Give students time to think • Have students discuss in pairs • Ask some students to share responses [Variation]
After	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on student answers

Prep

- Prepare materials

Materials Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timer • Worksheet (Appendix 1)
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- Prepare a question
 - Target the question or prompt towards the learning objective.

Is your question a good one?
Check your question to make sure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It is open-ended; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It will generate reasoning and analysis, but is not overly complicated; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It will help draw students' attention to key aspects of the new concept you will teach, or assess students' understanding of previous knowledge. <p>Also, Pair and Share works particularly well if you have a topic that you want to address specifically, or one that students tend to believe they know well but really do not.</p>

During

- Introduce the activity
 - **Sample script:** *Now we will have a discussion about [insert topic]. Before our discussion, I want each one of you to spend a couple of minutes on your own working on the question I'm going to give you. You will then have the opportunity to talk with your neighbor and discuss. You may take notes, and you may discuss and compare your answers. Finally, we will come together and have some of you share the answers with all of us.*
- Ask the question

- Give students time to think
 - Monitor the time! Give students 1-3 minutes to think individually. If using the worksheet, you may encourage them to jot down answers or notes. You may extend the time according to the complexity of the topic.
- Have students discuss in pairs
 - You may choose to assign partners or ask students to pair up with their neighbor. Walk around to monitor and give individual support.
- Ask some students to share responses
 - Encourage students to share not only their points of agreement but also how and why their view differs from their partner. Ask probing questions when necessary. [Variation: You may ask the class for a show of hands of who agree or disagree with an answer. You may also, instead of a whole-class discussion, ask two pairs of participants to share and compare the responses.]

After

- Comment on student answers
 - Clarify incorrect answers or misconceptions
 - Use this activity as an informal assessment of students' learning. Identify weaknesses in their understanding, and make clarification in your comments accordingly.
- Collect student worksheet, when necessary, to motivate students to think hard and produce in-depth answers.

| Appendix 1. Optional Pair and Share worksheet

Name:		My partner's name:	
Course Title Pair and Share Worksheet			
Question	My thoughts	My partner's thoughts	Our answer