

# Think-Pair-Share

This foundational protocol is well-suited for discussion that starts with a specific prompt or text, and as a way to jumpstart small group or classroom discussion.

1. Provide students with a question or prompt.
2. Ask students to think about the prompt individually.
3. Divide students into pairs and ask them to exchange their thoughts and ideas.
4. After students have shared with their partner, expand the sharing into a whole class discussion
5. Optional: Ask students to reflect on the activity and to write down what they learned or how their thinking changed or expanded based on the conversation with peers.

## VARIATIONS

- “Think-Ink-Pair-Share” adds a written step, for practice articulating thoughts in writing.
- “Snowball” – instead of rejoining the class group from pairs, pairs join with each other to form a group of four to debrief anew. The process repeats until the class is one group.

## IMPLEMENTATION SUGGESTIONS

- Choose open-ended questions that are likely to get a variety of answers from students. For ex-ample: “What is the most important problem facing Canadians today?” or “What can schools do to improve the mental health of students?”
- Present students with a quote, image, or short piece of text that warrants reflection and inter-pretation.

**\*Note: we have not provided suggested timings for the activities to keep them flexible, but we suggest adding your own, and assigning a student timekeeper in each group.**