



## Write-Share/Write-Pair-Share

Students engaged in this classroom learning activity write and discuss a response to a prepared prompt or question. Below are steps for implementing this activity.

### Preparation:

1. Write the prompt or question that you will use and identify when the activity will be implemented during class. The prompt or question should:
  - a. elicit deep thinking, avoid prompts that would only ask for recitation of factual information.
  - b. be challenging but not so difficult as to prevent students from beginning to respond.

### In class:

1. Present students with the prepared prompt or question.
2. Ask students to write a response to the prompt or question.
  - a. Indicate the amount of time that will be allowed for students to write their responses.
  - b. If you will be asking students to share their responses without the "Pair" step *tell them that you will call on someone to share what he/she has written* when the allotted time has expired.
3. Pair (optional) – Allowing students to discuss their responses with peers will help them clarify their thinking and, when sensitive topics are involved, allow them the protection of reporting out as "we" rather than "I."
  - a. Ask students to form pairs and identify a spokesperson.
  - b. Ask pairs to discuss their response. Depending on the prompt you may ask them to come to consensus, identify alternative positions, etc.
  - c. Indicate the amount of time that will be allowed for discussion in pairs.
    - i. Tell them that *you will call on pairs to share what they have discussed* when the allotted time has expired.
    - ii. Announce when half of the allotted time has elapsed to ensure that both members of the pair have an opportunity to share their thoughts.
4. Share
  - a. Call on individual students or pairs to share their answers/ideas/conclusions with the entire class.

This is a modification of the Think-Pair-Strategy proposed in "The responsive classroom discussion" (Lyman, 1981).

Lyman, F. (1981). "The responsive classroom discussion: The inclusion of all students." In A. Anderson (Ed.), *Mainstreaming Digest* (pp. 109-113). College Park: University of Maryland Press.