



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## Experiential Learning Teaching Methods

**Method:** Think-Pair-Share

**Description:** Think-Pair-Share is a simple strategy used in classrooms to encourage critical thinking and dialogue. This method involves 3 steps:

1. The instructor poses a question (preferably open-ended) for students to consider individually for 2-3 minutes.
2. After this students form small groups to discuss their response to the question.
3. After 5-10 minutes, the class comes back together to share about their conversations.

**Link to Experiential Learning:** This method is useful for having students make links between their own experiences and find commonality and difference between peer experiences. Many students are rightfully intimidated when instructors ask them to discuss their own personal experiences of an issue in front of an entire class. Discussing in small groups can allow students a safer, smaller space to discuss these issues which may lead to a richer discussion with an entire class- particularly in the early stages of a class when students are getting to know the instructor and other students.

**Facilitator Notes:** It is important to pay attention to small group dynamics. If, for example, a group forms that is all men and one woman to discuss issues related to gender, it may be worth switching up the groups.

Learn More:

<https://www.brown.edu/about/administration/sheridan-center/teaching-learning/effective-classroom-practices/think-pair-share>

<http://serc.carleton.edu/sp/library/interactive/tpshare.html>

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/increase-student-interaction-think-pair-shares-and-circle-chats>