

I used to think...  
But now I think...



I used to think ...

Now I think ...

purpose

This routine helps students reflect on their thinking about a topic or issue and explore how and why that thinking has changed. This routine also develops students' ability to identify and talk about their thinking itself.

Synthesising  
& Organising  
Ideas

## **PURPOSE**

*What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?*

This routine can be useful in consolidating new learning as students identify their new understandings, opinions and beliefs. By examining and explaining how and why their thinking has changed, students develop their reasoning abilities and recognise cause and effect relationships.

## **APPLICATION**

*When and where can it be used?*

Use this routine:

- Whenever students' initial thoughts, opinions, beliefs are likely to have changed as a result of instruction or experience.

## **ASSESSMENT**

*How can I use this routine as an assessment?*

This routine is fairly open-ended so Teachers need to be flexible in what information they gather.

- Do students make mention of particular concepts or new skill set they have acquired?
- Do students mention shifts in their thinking about key ideas either expected or unexpected by the teacher?

## **LAUNCH**

*What are the steps needed for starting and using this routine?*

1. **Set up** → Explain the purpose of the routine to students.
2. **Individual Reflection** → Record what you used to think about the topic, using the prompts 'I used to think...' Now think about how your ideas about the topic have changed as a result of discussions, learning and experiences. Write a few lines to capture where you are now in your thinking, starting with the prompt *Now I think...*
3. **Share the thinking** → Students share and explain their shifts in thinking. Initially this could be done whole class so you can probe those who may be finding it challenging. As students become accustomed to the routine this may become more small group or pairs before soliciting a whole group response.